

KEY QUESTIONS

To help people think about the BBC, we have drawn up a list of key questions. We want you to send us your responses to them. They are:

- These are few (very few) things I would take to the streets to protest about - But I would if I thought BBC independence was in danger.*
- **What do you value most about the BBC?** For example, is it the news, sports, arts or educational coverage? How well does it serve different nations, regions and communities throughout the United Kingdom? What subjects does it cover less well? *World Service is good and should be kept going*
 - **How should the BBC adapt to cope with changes in technology and culture?** For example, how should it take account of the rise in use of the Internet or digital television? *More use need to be able to get freeview / digital - more areas spread please*
 - **What do you think of the television, radio and online services the BBC provides?** What changes, if any, would you like to see? *Faster quizzes & audience participation programmes - where already exist common denominators differ.*
 - **Should the BBC run commercial services?** The BBC produces magazines like The Radio Times and DVDs of popular programmes like The Office. Its main commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, put £123m back into public services in 2002/03. Do you think the BBC should continue running commercial operations? *NO. Leave this to the commercial world.*
 - **How should we pay for the BBC?** Is the licence fee the best method or can you suggest any alternative? *I've thought alot about this and believe the licence fee is the fairest - and best method for ensuring public broadcasting in this country*
 - **Is the BBC organised in the most effective and efficient way?** Is it set up to provide the very best services for the public? *Not sufficient knowledge to answer.*
 - **How should the BBC be run? How should it be regulated?** The BBC's Governors currently have a dual role. First, overseeing how the BBC is run internally. Secondly, regulating it on behalf of the public interest - for example, making sure it meets standards on accuracy, impartiality and fair trading. Is this the best approach? *I'd like to see BBC Director & Governor elected by an independent Commission*
 - **How do we ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and Parliament?** Should the public have a greater say and influence on the BBC? If so, how? *Best regulated by a mixture of public forum, lobby, N-V, witnesses & viewers for example - direct public feedback, programmes - & the media*
- NEXT STEPS** *Generally, No direct reference by Government.*

Of course, you may not have views on all of these issues, or you may have opinions about other things the BBC does which are not covered by the questions above. We want to hear these too. What is essential is that you make your voice heard.

You can do this by sending your views on the BBC to:

E-mail: bbccharterreview@culture.gsi.gov.uk
Post: BBC Charter Review Consultation
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH
Phone: 0207 211 6418

We aim to publish all responses within ten working days of receipt. However, you can request your response to be confidential. You can also give your views directly to Ministers at a series of public meetings being held across the UK. Details will be published on the Charter review website shortly.

All responses should be sent by 31 March 2004.

What happens next will in part depend on the outcome of the consultation you are being invited to take part in.

But this is not your only chance to comment. Once we have collected your initial views we will set out firmer options for the future of the BBC and give you a chance to comment on these. Parliament will also have a say.

The Charter review will be completed before the end of 2006.

YOUR BBC

Alf Jones
(Minister of Culture)

INTRODUCTION

We are asking you to give your views on the BBC now and in the future.

The BBC's activities are currently governed by a Royal Charter – a document that shapes the BBC, setting out what it is for, what it does and how it does it. A review of the BBC, called Charter review, is now being carried out. Once it is completed, we will be able to consider what the BBC of the future will look like.

Nearly all of us watch or listen to the BBC. Whether through coverage of news and sporting events like the FA Cup, popular shows like EastEnders, or current affairs programmes like Panorama, it plays a daily role in most of our lives. It is an essential part of what defines us as a nation. A distinctive voice that we turn to in good times and bad.

Anyone with a television pays for the BBC through the licence fee. That gives them a stake in its future.

Since 1927, a review has been carried out every 10 years or so to see how the BBC is serving the public and to consider its future.

You can play a role in this latest review by letting us know what you think. Your views matter.

YOUR BBC YOUR SAY

Nothing is ruled in or out of Charter review. The only certain outcome is a strong BBC, independent of Government. This is your chance to shape its future.

It's your BBC; make sure you have your say.

The BBC provides the following publicly funded services:

- TV channels – BBC1 and BBC2, BBC 3 and BBC4, CBeebies, CBBC, BBC News 24 and BBC Parliament.
- Radio services – Radio1, Radio2, Radio 3, Radio 4, Radio Five Live, Five Live Sports Xtra, Radio 1Xtra, BBC6 Music, BBC7, BBC Asian Network and the BBC World Service, as well as 38 local radio stations and a further six stations covering the nations.
- BBCi – the BBC's interactive services, including online services, interactive text and interactive digital television.
- Services in the nations and regions – BBC Scotland, BBC Northern Ireland, BBC Wales and BBC English Regions.

In addition, the BBC runs a number of commercial services, including BBC Worldwide Ltd and BBC Ventures Ltd.

More information can be found on the BBC and Charter review at www.bbccharterreview.org.uk

If you do not have access to the Internet at home, your local library should have access.