

My views on the B.B.C.

(Neil Cooper,

1. The B.B.C. is run satisfactorily at present. No public body makes fewer mistakes. The B.B.C.'s Governors have excelled at their dual role and should be allowed to continue without interference by Government.

2. The B.B.C. should not be beholden to commercial interests. In general, therefore, it should not run commercial services other than its existing magazines and its commercial arm BBC Worldwide. Its programmes, past and present, are of such merit that no opportunity should be lost of making money abroad.

3. The licence fee is ~~the~~ the best way of funding; only in this way can true independence be guaranteed.

4. For the benefit of the old and poor, analog services in TV should be preserved into the next decade. Radio 3 and Radio 4 are first class.

5. What I value most in the BBC is its coverage on TV of news, drama, the arts and its educational programmes.

I regret that the quality of some of these has deteriorated during this century. There is only contemporary drama. "The Monday Play" has been dropped. Opera is rarely shown. I cannot see that it matters if a showing of "Tosca" has lower ratings than "Footballers Wives". But those who choose to listen and see "Tosca" on television may be find it exciting and compelling viewing.

I think that what is popularly called "dumbing down" is a bad thing and that with the right direction the BBC Television Service on BBC1 and above all on BBC2 can be "de-dumbed".