

From: Corbett, Nicholas
Sent: 16 December 2003 13:01
To: BBC Charter Review
Subject: BBC

Dear Review Body,

The BBC should have fewer outlets and higher quality.

It should cease its obsession with ratings, which has only served to produce a continuous deterioration in programme quality. Too many programmes appeal to the lowest common denominator with the result that the 9 o'clock watershed has long since ceased to have any meaning.

We ourselves terminated reception of TV programmes in October 2002, not because of over-hyped "sensational" dramas, which we could simply ignore, but because of the relentless encroachment of all forms of depravity into alleged family and even children's programming. By the end, we were watching very little apart from sport and the weather forecast. I have to say that radio is little better.

The decision to switch off altogether was not made by representatives of a bygone generation. I am 46, my wife is 45. Both our children made their own decisions to switch off their own TV sets. They were aged 18 and 17 at the time.

If the BBC wishes to be different and distinctive, and fulfil its original remit to "inform, entertain and educate" it must recognise that it can only do so by returning to the framework of basic moral values in which that remit was written. In order to do so the BBC will require greater independence from the government - of whatever party - so that it can begin to heal itself from the cancer of political correctness. Along with ratings, that is the other great evil that has debased and degraded a once-great institution.

If the BBC begins to raise standards, who knows, maybe commercial and satellite will follow.

Regards

Nick Corbett