

BBC CHARTER REVIEW CONSULTATION

FROM: TOM CORKILL

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Dear Consultation Director

YOUR BBC YOUR SAY

My 'SAY' is in the attachment. Thank you for offering me the opportunity to take part in the consultation. Such consultations should be staged regularly, say every 5 years, but with a comment-gathering from a selected convocation of people every 6 months, changing the convocation every 2 or 3 years.

You will see in my notes that I deplore the denigration that occurs far too often. When this happens I believe that the offenders belong to their own institution that earns an 'A' profile, i.e. the "Anti-British B.C."

Yours faithfully
Tom Corkill*

T.D. CORKILL

* I am a (nearly) retired aerospace engineer, a graduate of Loughborough, London & Cranfield & C.Eng. B.A.S

GENERAL.

To me, the BBC is no single entity. It consists of many colleges, each college having a particular collection of strengths and weaknesses with substantial overlapping. Each college might be viewed alternatively, like a newspaper. Every 'user' of the BBC has, thus, a chance of being catered for, with no one feeling left out. Too much tinkering with this arrangement is dangerous and potentially destructive. The BBC with all its facets is very good indeed, please do not opt for populism.

KEY QUESTIONS.

1. VALUE MOST? The music, especially that broadcast by RADIO 3. RADIO 3 is diverse, presented interestingly often with humor, never talks down and challenges one to think about the music and its presentation by so many gifted, informed people. Please go on doing this. RADIO 3 is truly a jewel. Thank you for it -
The BBC as a whole fails, dismally, to

cover science, engineering of to-day. What is ^{(of 5)²} offered is facile and simplistic. Music is never treated thus

The BBC is obsessed with politics. Politicians are pursued with questions that are filled with aggression and rudeness often by people who have no claim to have other than their disagreeableness. When this happens I use the OFF SWITCH. This needs stopping. The theme of DENIGRATION should be eliminated on all topics. How many people are put-off medical treatment of one sort or another by ignorant questioners, no doubt, claiming that they are looking for the truth!

2. ADAPT TO COPE WITH CHANGE IN TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE?

The BBC might start with making sure that changes in technology are explained to listeners & viewers. How about a swap with all those programmes about cooking and covering gardens with planting!

Changes in culture might best be tackled by a strong communication with all regions and encouraging local "Research and Development" groups to work.

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(of 5)

The BBC would not be able to deal with those matters from inside, although the "World Service" seems to do very well and may be a useful model.

3, THINK OF THE T.V., RADIO... THE BBC PROVIDES?

RADIO : Excellent. I listen chiefly to R.3, R.4 and now & then FIVE. Others I do not know.

TV : Not as good as it should be after all these years since the Potter's Wheel!

Poor on music, and science, engineering & technology (see 1 above)

Please cut down on 'Daisy up houses', 'Transforming Gardens', 'Quiz Shows'

Why not a special channel for programmes like these' - name it the Reynold Perin Channel, 'GROT' for short.

4. COMMERCIAL SERVICES?

Yes indeed. Expand them. The feed across to the public networks should be good for the Directors & Producers who do such good work that will go well in the Commercial Markets. The benefits will not be merely extra income.

5. HOW SHOULD WE PAY?

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(F5)

A licence fee still seems right if independence is to be achieved and maintained readily.

6. IS THE BBC ORGANISED IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT WAY?

I do not know enough to comment fairly. Anyone who does know the answer is probably a cross between Genghis Khan and the average Nobel Prize winner.

7. HOW SHOULD THE BBC BE RUN & REGULATED?

I am not impressed with the Governors' contribution. I suspect the BBC operates in spite of the Governors' best thoughts. Schools & Colleges no doubt have the same problem.

No doubt there have been studies of a possible alternative to Governors. If so bring it out & let us see it. Changes of a system involving Governors must be taken with great care. The saying 'The Best is the Enemy of the Good' is always with me - I pass it on to you.

8. PROPOSED ACCOUNTABLE? (see my covering letter) ⁵ (of 5)

The public might have a greater say and influence on the BBC through more consultations like this one, questionnaires, convocatives of people in review groups around the country presenting their collective views, a revised LISTENER, [†] encouraging letters to the Editor.

The present radio & T.V. feedback programmes are amusing & the radio FEEDBACK programme by Roger BOLTON is good even though the BBC spokes people are so defensive - BUT these efforts merely scratch the surface. The RADIO TIMES is too much like a tabloid to be really useful in this interchange

How about inviting people to join a BBC Society say on the lines of my professional society the Royal Aeronautical Society - we have Branch meetings at local level in Britain and around the world and the overall Society activities (administration, meetings etc) in London. People could feel that they are part of the BBC with some responsibility for its doings and for passing on 'the Good Word'

†: I really enjoyed reading this journal. Try to bring it back. Your MUSIC MAGAZINE is superb.