

22 MARCH 2004.

Dear Sirs.

"Your BBC, Your Say"

Your leaflet entitled as above says that the BBC's activities are currently governed by a Royal Charter. Royal charters are presumably granted by a non-government body such as the Privy Council, or something similar, so presumably the granting body will be aware of your charter review.

As regards your questions,

1. I value the BBC most when it concentrates on quality, rather than competing for viewing figures.
2. The BBC should make proper use of improvements in technology. Culture should be improved by the quality of programmes.
3. Some television programmes could be improved in quality. Radio programmes of music are mostly of "POP" rather than quality music.
4. The BBC should be very careful about the commercial services it provides. It must remain independent of vested interests.
5. I can't think of a better way to pay than the licence fee. "Pay as you view" leads to reliance on viewing figures which inevitably means "dumbing down" on quality.
6. Who can say if the BBC is organised in the most effective and efficient way? Who decides what are the very best services for the public?

7. The BBC should be run so that it is utterly impartial and completely independent of Government, vested interests, political parties, religious groups and every kind of outside pressure. As regards regulating it on behalf of the public interest, who decides what is in the public interest?

It is obviously the job of whoever runs the BBC to ensure absolute accuracy, complete impartiality and scrupulous honesty in dealing with staff, suppliers and customers.

8. Is it your responsibility to ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and Parliament? Is it not the responsibility of whoever issues the Royal Letters? The public is notoriously apathetic. The "greater say" is usually given to the vocal minority.

Yours sincerely,

E. Coull

(E. T. COVILL).