

BBC Charter Review Consultation  
Dept. For Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH

26th February 2004

Dear Sir/Madam

Here are some suggestions for the new BBC Charter.

BBC TV Networks - 1, 2, 3 and 4

As far as the licence fee goes, if there are to be any cutbacks these networks should consider not taking full blown commercials but sponsorship deals and product replacement deals. This could work very well on modern dramas, entertainment shows and popular culture shows.

Money needs to be spent on local and regional TV. This is where the BBC has made a blunder. It is all right having new network and radio TV channels but where is their programming coming from to run them? Already there are more and more repeats on 1 and 2 of classic comedy series, some made twenty years ago.

I suggest more of the licence fee is put in to the regions - a one off payment from the Government would help in building and kicking out new studios where they are needed. There should be a regional TV service, i.e. in the North East, Cumbria should have its own TV service split between north and south. As it stands at the moment it is too big an area to be covered properly.

Regional TV should be allowed to develop at a modest pace with 6 - 7 hours on a week day, maybe an odd hour or two early afternoon and 12-15 hours for a weekend. A whole range of programmes should be allowed to be made - comedy, dramas, soaps even documentaries, light entertainment, youth and children's programmes, religion and ethnic programming, that reflect, the town, city or region each BBC service covers. Some local groups and charities could be take part. Not only would this give the viewer a more localised and hands on service but the best of these programmes from all over the country could be re-broadcast on the networks, thus filling in the short falls in budgeting that are now currently occupied by repeats.

BBC Radio - These services could be provided on digital radio as the frequencies are now available.

Local radio has made its mark in its regions and towns. There should be allowed two more services, i.e. a news/current affairs and debating service with sport a major part of its output giving an in-depth coverage on major news events, letting the public have its say and feeding the best of these programmes back down the line to the national networks.

A Non-commercial music station offering a local or regional service with popular music interspersed with guests and chat, but also giving a chance to local musicians, bands and singers to be heard, giving the audience a more localised, friendly service, that is always there for them to listen to without the incessant hard sell.

If these services could not be funded directly from the licence fee a partnership with a commercial company would be the only alternation but people want more local programming and locally made.

Yours faithfully

Robert Croft