

From: Martin & Sue Cutter  
Sent: 18 December 2003 19:25  
To: BBC Charter Review  
Subject: Public Consultation - Here's my viewpoint from America

When I emigrated to the States seven years ago, I knew I was going to miss the superb TV programme content that I had enjoyed hitherto in the UK, particularly that of the BBC.

That loss was, to a large extent, mitigated when BBC America was launched and I was able once again to enjoy quality programming. It was not perfect; for instance, I would have liked to have seen at least some coverage of the Promenade Concerts.

However, for me, the programming was streets ahead of the mainstream 'lowest common denominator' output from the US Networks and other cable companies.

Unfortunately, all that has changed for the worse. I don't know why this has happened but over the last year or so, the programme content of BBC America has deteriorated to such an extent that, quite frankly, I no longer watch it. The final straw was when BBCA arbitrarily and without warning, cancelled the transmission of EastEnders last September.

BBC America has degenerated into a pale copy of other US cable DIY programmes and I think you should now be ashamed to lend your proud name to it.

My opinion and recommendation, for what it's worth, is that you close down BBC America as soon as possible and, in its place, transmit BBC Prime, which I see has some decent quality programme content - more like we had several years ago.

Sincerely,

Martin Cutter