

12th March 2004.

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

Dear Sirs,

I love my BBC, particularly Radio 4 and the last thing I want is for the Government to have any say on how it is run. I want the BBC to be **entirely independent and to owe nothing to the Government**. For this independence I am very happy to pay the Licence fee though this should be waved for people on social benefit. If you compare the cost of the Licence to any social entertaining it is wonderful value.

What I value most in the BBC is its educational coverage, whether it is about history, science, politics or the arts. However, I must admit that the standard has gone down in the last few years. BBC2 which was the channel to inform and challenge the viewers is now often superseded by Channel 4 which often present programmes well investigated and thought provoking. Why can't we have more programmes like the "Divine Michelangelo" or "Nile" or "Correspondents". We could have more repeats of interesting programmes such as "Life of Plants" or programmes by Robert Winston or "Andes to Amazon", or "Millennium" etc. because even though we have seen them once there is so much to take in one cannot remember everything. Your BBC4 and UK history are excellent channels but they are not available to everyone. I hate voyeurism television which BBC1 started with its Millennium project on the island and carried on with putting well known personalities in different jobs.

I think the BBC should continue to be run the way it has been. I would rely on the integrity of the reporters, journalists and all staff involved for the BBC to be properly accountable to the public and Parliament. I think the BBC should carry on running its commercial services as it has done but I would not like to see advertising on the main channels. I think the BBC has adapted well with the changes in technology by providing the opportunity of hearing missed programmes, offering the possibility of debates after provocative programmes and easy Email access (though how people manage to spend so much time in front of a screen beats me).

I think the BBC has served us wonderfully well for so many years and it is doing an excellent job the world over with its "BBC Worldwide" ^{service} so we should not change the way it is run except for bringing back better quality programmes.

Yours faithfully,



Gladys Edmonds (Mrs.)