

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

6 March 2004

Dear Sirs

I am writing as a licence payer to indicate that, in my opinion, the ever-increasing licence fee levied by the BBC should be abolished and the BBC be required to finance itself in the same way as commercial television and radio ie primarily through advertising revenues or subscription. An exception should be made for one public service television channel and one public service radio station, both devoted mainly to the arts and education, as well as the BBC Overseas Services: these being financed from the public purse.

The BBC, because of the left-wing agenda that it consistently promotes on its news programmes such as Radio 4's Today programme and through the trivialisation and vulgarisation of its television programmes (with some honourable exceptions), has surely forfeited its right to a unique place among UK broadcasting companies. It seems strange that one body should enjoy the right to make a compulsory charge on all possessors of television sets: it being analagous to every newspaper-reading household being required to take out an annual subscription to say The Guardian before being permitted to purchase any other national or local newspaper.

If, as the result of the loss of the licence fee, the BBC were to become essentially a commercial operation, with a Board of Directors and a Chief Executive (the current outmoded titles being abolished), it might then become a financially leaner operation and perhaps could become a public limited company with shareholders (but not able to pass into foreign control).

External regulation should then be as it is for the commercial companies, although the whole process probably needs to be made more visible and accessible to the public.

I trust that the above thoughts are of some value and I look forward to following the debate that is likely to occur.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Gitter', written in a cursive style.

G Gitter