

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

12th March 2004.

Dear Sirs,

~~The local newspaper here reports that you would like to receive listeners' opinions about the future of the BBC. I am happy to oblige.~~

The stations I listen to are Radio 4, BBC World Service (not included in the review, I suspect), BBC1 News, and BBC2 television. I'm a retired professional man in my early sixties.

1. The BBC is our most precious national asset. Its unique legal status and regulatory structure has, like our constitution, evolved over the years. Only those who have travelled widely realise how good it is in comparison with almost all other broadcasting organisations.
2. Its political independence needs to be bolstered by Act of Parliament, and its management protected by long-term contracts and vast salaries on the lines of High Court judges. The next Charter, therefore, should be 25 years.
3. A licence fee is the only straight forward way to do this; because the BBC is available to all, then all must contribute to its finances. But the licence fee should be collected through the Income Tax system with the current benefits for the elderly retired, blind, etc.
4. The quality of comedy programmes on both radio and TV is falling: they are simply no longer funny. The Corporation should be encouraged to review this aspect of its output.
5. More programmes should be made "in house" rather than commissioned commercially. This will encourage the growth and development of talent untainted by commercial considerations.
6. News and current affairs programmes should concentrate on reporting and draw back on intrusive comment and speculation; this has become a feature of them in recent years. Listeners/Viewers can think for themselves.
7. Local radio is, by its nature, quickly adaptive to local conditions, and should on the whole be left alone.
8. There should be far fewer American programmes, replaced by others from the rest of the world, along the lines of Radio 4s "A Word in your Ear."

Yours faithfully



B.M. Glover.