

5/4/04

I am sorry this response to the BBC consultation is a little late. (I came across a leaflet about it only a short while ago.)

I am writing to say, first, how much I value the radio channels 3 and 4. These both provide an excellently wide range of listening. So long may they continue.

So far as BBC television is concerned, I consider it has 'dumbed down' enormously over recent years, with BBC 1 in particular an endless round of soaps, game shows, and other things of no

interest to me. BBC ⁽²⁾ 2 is better but not as good as it was.

Daytime TV is dire. Next to nothing which is novel or challenging. This is astounding, considering the numbers now of part-time workers and of retired people who are free for some or all of the day.

Advertising of BBC's own TV programmes is now far too lengthy and intrusive.

But -- I'm in favour of the BBC acting commercially (magazines, tapes, etc) if it's successful at it, as your leaflet says it is.

Programme subject matters which are vastly overdone are gardening, house-makeovers, antiques, second homes. Subject matters which are unreasonably under-represented are the arts, religion (is there not supposed to be a legal requirement here?), science, what's going on in

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Europe (only 'Eorpa' on Gaelic TV appears to cover this) and the rest of the world (i.e. generally, not just political crises, murders, wars).

BBC TV news is also dire.

It's been tabloid sensationalism for too long, lingering on every scrap of supposed 'personal interest' in murder cases, 'celebrity' adulteries, etc. Channel 4 news is a much better model. Or BBC Radio 4 news.

On the new digital etc services, we don't receive them but note some programmes later move on to the mainstream channels. That seems inevitable, if the BBC is to cover the cost of all the many new services. But are they all really wanted?

The BBC's web pages are good, and I believe well used.

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On the licence fee, I'm happy for it to continue. We need an independent TV and radio network.

On how the BBC is governed and run, I don't know enough to judge. But I'd want the Government role to be minimal.

Yours sincerely,

M Gunn

(MRS M. GUNN)