

15.3.04

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

Dear Sirs

In response to your publication 'Your BBC/Your Say', I would like to make the following *confidential* comments.

I value the high standard of news bulletins and current affairs programmes, as well as arts and music programmes, on BOTH radio and television.

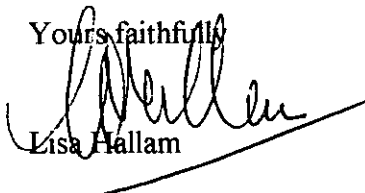
I fear insufficient emphasis is given to radio – there are many people who are listeners to a greater degree than they are viewers, and radio seems to be a footnote in most reports and discussions.

Commercial breaks - the fact there are none is a very great advantage and improves all programmes, particularly documentaries and drama. They should definitely be avoided for the BBC..

Whilst I hesitate to comment on the licence fee (I am over 75 and therefore do not have to pay, though would if necessary agree to a re-assessment of the age related concession) I do feel most strongly the licence fee should be retained. The licence applies per household and covers all generations in that household, and all radio and television sets. News and current affairs are for everyone: who pays, and how would this be regulated if any other payment system were brought in?

The appointment of governors should revert to the original idea, ie they must be independent, separate from the executive and non-political. Between them they should have wide experience in the fields of art/science/journalism/law as well as broadcasting and the professions as well as business, and must be accountable to the public – who are paying the licence fee. Instead of being appointed by the government of the day, I would suggest a Select Committee of either the Lords or both Houses of Parliament, thus ensuring independence and fairness.

Yours faithfully



Lisa Hallam