

12.3.04.

BBC Charter Review Consultation

Dear Sirs,

As the views of my husband and myself are so similar on the subject of the future of the BBC, we are both signing this letter.

1. There are many things we value about the BBC, the main ones being news, arts, historical, drama and natural history programmes.
2. So far the BBC has coped well as it takes account of internet and digital changes, and we see no reason why its excellent staff will not continue to do so.
3. We think the services the BBC provides are, on balance, superior to those of its rivals. One immense bonus is not having to watch the ghastly adverts!
4. It is a good idea for the BBC to continue with its commercial services as long as these have no effect on the excellence of its services. All the while it is producing excellent programmes it will be more likely to be able to sell them abroad. It is, after all, at the moment, seen as the premier broadcaster WORLDWIDE by so many people!
5. The licence fee seems the best way to pay - we are very fearful of any alternative resulting in a far worse service. The Natural History Unit's output alone is well worth the yearly fee!
6. It is very difficult to see how any outsider can answer such a question, but the system seems to have worked well so far in recent years (with the possible exception of John Birt). Please do remember how IMPERATIVE it is that staff morale is high. Without this everything will suffer.
7. The role of the Governors has worked well in the past, but if there is Government interference it will be jeopardised. Should this happen perhaps the role should be reviewed.
8. The BBC has always been viewed as being quite impartial and fair, as well as groundbreaking. If it is shackled by too many constraints this could suffer.

Finally, we do hope that the Government will take note of this public consultation!

Frances Haddin, etc (Mrs)

Norman Haddin