

BBC Charter Review Consultation 12-3-04

Dept for Culture/Media/Sport

2-4 Cockspur St

London SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sirs,

I enclose my views on current BBC programmes and an attempt to answer some of the questions posed in the leaflet "Your BBC - your say".

I am ~~over~~ 75 years old and so pay no licence fee. I look at what is on offer on the digital programmes but feel no desire to buy the "Freeview" box nor to subscribe to any of the "Pay" Channels. I recognise that the BBC has

to cater for all tastes but I find
less and less of anything to interest me
(on any channels) I dislike programmes
being interrupted by adverts and also
deplore the ever increasing number of
BBC adverts for future programmes, Radio
Times and methods of payment for the
license fee.

I do think the BBC should continue
to produce books, CDs etc. The books are
generally excellent. The RT sets out the
programmes clearly but I would prefer
Radio & TV for one day together - not
all Radio at the back. I generally have
no interest in the various articles but
no doubt others have.

My views on programmes are on
the separate sheet

Yours sincerely

Margaret Haresnape (Mrs)
[HARESNAPE]

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Programmes I value :-

The News - but I object to the drum-banging introduction repeated at intervals throughout (I switch on late and have the zapper ready to reduce the sound when the drums start - but do we need it?)

I also dislike interviews with inarticulate people stopped on the streets for their "views" - and the "Golden Pea" gimmick on SE News. Generally prefer Radio 4 news.

Arts programmes but often are irritated to the point of switching off by loud background music / noise which makes the commentary inaudible. I switched off both programmes on Michael Angelo recently and also the documentary about Bourne and Stephenson for the season. The Channel 5 Tim Marlow programmes have virtually no background music and are excellent viewing.

Serious Quiz Programmes - University Challenge, Mastermind etc but not the weakest link because of the unbearable background noise.

and down banging every few minutes - and constant undertone of noise - again making hearing the questions difficult.

Working lunch but spoilt by silly gimmicks - dressing up - wearing funny hats or taking showers and why do we need a smashed up toilet pan in the introduction to a financial programme?

Good Drama but save these days and often undue emphasis on sex/violence not evident in the original literature.

Antiques Roadshow - usually interesting and free of surprises.

Crimewatch UK because I like to see criminals get caught but so far have never been able to help.

Historical and Documentary programmes but again these are often over-hyped and have loud background music / noise
on Radio 4 I enjoy the book-reading -
book at bedtime - sometimes afternoon plays, arts programme at 4-15pm and generally listen to News in the morning and at 10pm

Radio 3 has an excellent variety of music throughout the day. I shall miss Alistair Cooke on 4 - that has been compulsory listening for years.

I never watch Sport except perhaps the Tennis finals from Wimbledon.

Soaps or docu-soaps

Any programmes involving "voting for your favourite" this or that - Putting everything in league tables has become an obsession and is quite pointless.

Any programmes involving hospitals, doctors, vets, gardening, cooking, DIY or house makeovers, Pop music.

In general I would like to see

more quality programmes in Arts, Music; series like "The dining Planet", drama, comedy of "Yes, Minister" standards. Many comedy series start off well but run out of ideas and go on too long like Dad's Army

last of the summer here, keeping up appearances,

I am not sure about the licence fee - it seems unfair to those who subscribe to commercial networks and barely watch BBC - on the other hand I would totally oppose advertisements as a means of finance and I do believe that the BBC should concentrate on public service broadcasting and quality programmes which do not necessarily get large numbers of viewers. If you watch a high proportion of the programmes on offer then

£116 a year seems very reasonable. Before retirement I was a teacher (of geography) for many years and made much use of many excellent schools programmes at various levels - I presume that these continue to be an asset to teaching. Long live the BBC.