

Department for Culture, Media and Sport	
DATE -	22 JAN 2004
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Author	Frankie
BP	BCMS
Information only	03/19911

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The Prime Minister's Office
 10 Downing Street
 London SW1A 2AA

Concern re

the BBC.

Dear Sirs,

Re: The BBC

I write this to your Office because I should like to think Mr Blair will be made aware of my feelings and, because I am not certain exactly in whose post bag it should end up. Is it Tessa Jowell who has the responsibility for the BBC and, in particular the renewal of the charter in 2006?

I have over some ten years been forced to change my opinion of the BBC from a strong supporter in principle to one who can see no compelling reason why it should continue to exist at all. Either it does things very badly, such as it's news coverage, or it spends taxpayer's money on music and drama which can be covered perfectly well in other ways.

I have made my opinions known to the management of the BBC, and have been met with, and I quote, "gripping indifference" and "stunning complacency". I quote from the excellent coverage by Andrew Gowers in his leader, and Philip Stevens in his article in yesterday's FT. This was of course comment on the awesomely pompous and naïve attempt by Gavyn Davies to cover up his and his executive management's obvious incompetence and arrogance in handling taxpayer's money.

FC

In trying to defend the indefensible he exposes all. BBC News is based on tabloid formulae of conflict and drama, laced with some sort of vendetta against those in power in the Government. Davies's job is to return news coverage to objectivity, analysis and debate. His reply is to renew John Humphrey's contract for three years in defiance. He needs to get rid of these posturing personalities such as Humphreys, Sturton, Naughtie, Clark and so on. If they want their highly paid "shows" they should have to negotiate them in the private sector, not pretend this is news coverage in the safety of a nationalised institution. These are cowardly and spineless presenters whose sole skill is tripping up those trying to do a real job.

opinion!

The case is clear. We have no choice in paying. The BBC scoffs at us and undermines democracy. Frankly I think it should go. At the very least it must be regulated differently.

12 JAN 2004

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.J. Jago'. The signature is stylized with overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Mr. W.J.Jago

Copies to;

Gavyn Davies – BBC
Greg Dyke – BBC
Andrew Gowers - FT