

Kate M.

16 January 2004

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Dear Sir or Madam

I understand that the Government has invited comments from the public in connection with a review of the charter of the BBC.

Too often I find myself faced with the BBC's religious output, particularly 'Thought for the Day' in the early morning when the Corporation apparently holds to the belief that I need a bit of moral elevation. However I can do my own thinking just as most people can today. Partly this is thanks to the spread of education during the last century in which the BBC played a distinguished role. I recognise that my own conscience warns me against wrong without prompting by clergy (and women) whose church (for long in decline) has in recent decades become completely discredited by the murderous bigotry displayed both in the so-called Holy Land and here at home in Ulster, murderous bigotry indeed which has threatened respectively world peace itself and the United Kingdom's own continued existence.

When I peruse the Radio Times I notice too many programmes which try to foster the religious case. Few people today believe the virgin birth and resurrection nonsense which is the basis of the Christian story. And I detect a tendency to increase broadcasting time for adherents of non-Christian faiths. Such discussion may help the Corporation in its efforts to find material to fill its 24-hour long schedules but the Corporation surely neglects to notice that, though it may scrape together a studio-full of religious activists of one persuasion or another, such persons represent what has become a very small minority interest. The charter needs overhaul accordingly to bring it up to date.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport	
DATE RECEIVED:	19 JAN 2004
Deadline:	21/02/04
Author:	Great Official
	Great As App.
	Form
PCU REF.	03/19617

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I have copied this letter for information to the Secretary of the BBC.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Jenner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Nicholas Jenner

The Secretary
Department for Culture Media and Sport
2 - 4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH