

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

January 3, 2004

Dear Sir,

BBC Charter Review 2004

I welcome an opportunity to contribute to this review of the BBC charter, and hope that many other ordinary citizens will make use of this opportunity, since it is my belief that input from the public will be overshadowed by the organized special interest groups, and most of all by the self interest of the government and the labour party. I am aware that this letter will be read almost certainly by a servant, or supporter of left wing causes, but feel it worth while to present my views in any case.

I have read the introductory "Foreword by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport" which I feel gives a very biased view of the BBC. For instance she infers in the third paragraph that the BBC should continue to deliver what we want it to. Of course we all have different views but so wide is disaffection with the impartiality of the BBC that such inference is unwarranted. Paragraph four is really quite irrelevant. Digital services do not affect content, or alter significantly the number of viewers. I assume that this was a piece of Pro- BBC propaganda more than a contribution to the essential debate in hand. Paragraph five extols the virtues of technology, in particular digital technology, but such matters do not "build the foundations of a healthy and comprehensive broadcasting service" and to write such indicates poor analysis and poor judgement. I view the Foreword as an attempt to qualify the type of debate in a direction acceptable to Ms Jowell. This indicates clearly to me the undesirability of heavy governmental influence on matters pertaining to the BBC Charter.

1. What do you most value about the BBC?

I listen to the BBC Radio 4 Today program each morning, since I like to have a run down on the day's news and to have some sort of commentary. I like quiz programs and humorous programs. However I do not like the way Today slants all its views to make socialist political propaganda. I dislike the fact that it is used by, and for Jack Straw as a personal soap box for his views and his propagandizing. The way the program is manipulated by all its interviewers is a blatant misuse of a public service, for socialist propaganda, and gives the impression that those who run the program are looking for

entry to the honours list. It is clearly in the firm grip of a socialist cartel, and measures should be taken to introduce balanced and impartial staffing. It is interesting to recall that the crew of HMS Ark Royal requested that BBC programs should not be heard aboard during the Iraq war because of the inaccurate and left wing distortions given to all news items. This was a shameful situation for the BBC.

The BBC appears to be hostile to the Iraq war, fox hunting, the control of illegal immigration, and the state of Israel. It is hostile to those who do not like the politically correct ways of the left-liberal elite, regardless of the views of much, if not most, of the population. The picture it gives is of an arrogant servant of socialism.

2. How should the BBC adapt to cope with the changes in technology and culture?
The BBC needs to encourage the digital TV and Radio changeover, and associated technology. It needs to compete with B sky B, not necessarily in numbers of channels, but certainly in range of interests. Culturally, it needs to be aware of all the ethnic minority groups, and provide for them. However this does not mean slavish adherence to the politically correct lobby, and overweighting with ethnic minority staff. It also needs to bear in mind that minorities chose to live in Britain presumably because they admire the culture, political system, justice system and tolerance of British culture, to which they should be helped to adapt, and not encouraged to denigrate and if possible to destroy.

3. What do you think of the television, radio and online services the BBC provides?
The services are comprehensive and of fairly reasonable quality. The BBC website is good and well updated. Unfortunately my earlier observations apply here also. A recent vote held to endorse one of five possible new laws was manipulated to try to produce the most politically correct one. Sadly for the BBC the one receiving most votes was that householders be able to use any necessary force against intruders. This brought the BBC to suppress the whole exercise as quickly as possible.

4. Should the BBC run commercial services?
The short answer is yes. To reduce this matter to basics, the BBC should be privatized as comprehensively as possible. This would in a stroke reduce the dead hand of government influence, and bring the fresh air of competition to what has become an inward looking self satisfied, and elitist cabal of underperformers. It might then be expected to promote a search for new talent through channels other than "The Guardian" columns, and the appointment of a director independent of government, and not a major labour party donor.

5. How should we pay for the BBC?
The license is an unjustified poll tax. It is also I believe, an infringement of the right to receive information from any source without let or hindrance, a right included in the European Bill Of Rights. How does Ms Jowell, Mr Greg Dyke and the socialist government explain this? Fees would be irrelevant if the BBC were privatized. I understand that private individuals are taking legal action against the BBC on the matter of the fee, and they have my support.

6. Is the BBC organized in the most effective and efficient way?

No. Being a monopoly organization, socialist in inclination, and elitist in culture it is insulated from the market place and from majority cultural orientation. It therefore inherently dislikes the disciplined thinking necessary in all market orientated organizations, and fears the disciplines involved. Although its Charter specifies objectivity and balance, there is little evidence that the BBC adheres to these principles and there appears to be no authority to enforce them. The fact that the government can appoint a major donor to the socialist party as its director general is a national scandal. I do not hear anything from Ms Jowell on this matter. Naturally the director general will appoint like minded people to all the vacant positions arising in the organization, and will see to it that vacancies are advertised only through journals allied to, and read by socialists.

7. How should the BBC be run? How should it be regulated?

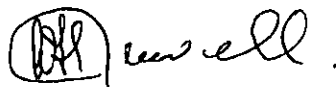
Privatization solves this problem also, and removes the present board. If because of its devotion to socialism above all else, the government insists that it should not be privatized, then clearly it must avoid the temptation to control the BBC itself. A way must be found to make the BBC impartial and objective. You cannot hope to accomplish this without root and branch reform of BBC staffing. The desirability of completely independent management is paramount, and all political influence should be prevented. It seems to me to be important to keep all politicians at arms length, and to remove all political influence on management appointments. The objective must be to prevent a takeover by the political establishment. We need an organization to speak on behalf of the mainstream British culture, traditions, history and moral norms of the British people.

8. How do we ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and parliament? It is best made accountable to the public by privatization. Parliament usually, and currently is, a democratic dictatorship, and we have seen the corrosive effects of socialism and government on the BBC, and its staffing structure.

Formerly in past years the people would have said that under its Charter, the BBC was independent and balanced in its views. This perception has been destroyed within a few short years.

I do not doubt that total privatization would solve most of the problems inherent in the BBC as presently constituted. The market unfettered, has a way of solving most apparently insuperable problems. But it is impossible for me to imagine that those who have a vested interest and who hold all the power will not opt to keep this once proud organization within the control of the left-liberal elite network.

Yours faithfully,



W.H.M. Jewell.