

To: BBC Charter Review Consultation
 Dept. for Culture, Media & Sport
 2-4 Cockspur Street
 London SW1Y 5DH

Wednesday 31st March '04

Dear Sir,

I haven't any answers for 7 of your 8 Key Questions - perhaps BBC employees might be better placed to comment on these?

However, I would like to take this opportunity to express my opinions about BBC1, as follows, thank you :-

The Good :-

- ① Houses under the Hammer (10am-11am, 20 programmes over 4 weeks) - thank you very much for repeating this series in February & early March '04. I enjoyed it very much; I'd missed a lot of the series when broadcast first in late 2003. Good quality, well prepared, well presented, and a great insight into the buying and renovating of properties sold at auction.
- ② City Hospital (10am-11am) - I'm pleased to see another new live series is being broadcast from next week. I think Matthew Kelly is a 'natural' in this role. I found previous series very enjoyable, interesting, varied, well prepared, heart-warming & enlightening, showing how people cope in hospital.
- ③ Songs of Praise (Sun, early evening) I have enjoyed many of these shows, over the past 20 years or so. I suggest, in future, you could consider repeating each show later in the week. Also, some ^{past} shows (say 1 in 4) are so good, that they are worth repeating at a later date I think. For example, Songs of Praise on 21.3.04, featuring children's choirs, was good. Perhaps compilations of old 'Songs of Praises' could also be considered, to show again?

- ④ Top of the Pops 2 - I imagine old pop videos / old Top of the Pops songs, and past mega open air pop concerts (e.g. Wembley with Queen & many many others) would be worth repeating?
- ⑤ Jungle (evening) with Charlotte Uhlenbeck. I enjoyed this 3 part series - high quality, mega efforts by film crews etc., great entertainment & inspiring. I'm sure you'll repeat these 3 shows, in the future.
- ⑥ Old films I enjoy many old films shown, for example 'The Sound of Music' broadcast last on 1.1.04 and 'The Wizard of Oz', last broadcast on 26.12.03. I hope you'll continue to repeat old films of quality, thanks.
- ⑦ Carrie's War I enjoyed this one off drama, broadcast on 1.1.04, and am sure you'll show again & again, because of it's quality.
- ⑧ Monarch of the Glen I thought the recent 10 part series was the best yet; very high quality, very good feel good factor, family viewing. I thought Duncan had a far better part. I have videoed many of these 10 episodes (as 'Heartbeat' or 'The Royal' was being shown on ITV). I've very much enjoyed watching & rewatching these episodes, and suggest you should repeat these 10 programmes (prime time hopefully), in the future. Most characters are very likeable to the viewer, I think.
- ⑨ Murder in Mind There was (an hour ^{or 90 mins} long?) one off drama broadcast about a year ago? starring Nicolas Lyndhurst, who rents out a flat to a young female student. It was very good, & suggest it should be repeated in future. Only suitable for after 9pm, as young children might be frightened.
- ⑩ Hope and Glory Could the first series be shown again (prime time hopefully), featuring Lenny Henry & Amanda Redman, if you think

the quality is high enough? I imagine it was 5 years or so when it was first broadcast (I don't know). I thought the first series was better than the last series, perhaps because of slight changes in cast.

Also any other dramas broadcast in last 30 years or so, I suggest you could consider for showing again, if the quality of the drama is high enough.

⑪ Merseybeat I don't think this programme gets the praise & credit it deserves. I've enjoyed every episode I've seen. I think it's high quality, and ^{like the} actors; John McFirdle, Chris Walker, David Hargreaves, Joanna Taylor & Josephine Darby. I'd very much like to see Merseybeat repeated, from the very first episode (prime time hopefully). I missed most of the early episodes, but I preferred some of the cast in the early series, including the lady superintendent.

If possible, could one scene where Tiger came across a collapsed farmer, be changed (!), so a lot more 'sensitivity' is inserted? Also, could the only single swear word (Feb 3rd '03) be easily edited out/dubbed, before showing again, thanks.

⑫ The Lost Prince (in two parts) - thanks for repeating this recently, in early January.

⑬ Celtic v Rangers I've watched most of the Celtic v Rangers league matches, shown live on BBC1, over recent years. They've been fantastic, starting with the 3-3 draw & the Larsson swivel goal. The atmosphere before the game is brilliant. Please continue to show these 'old firm' games in future (live) - so far they've been a revelation.

If I'd been writing to Terry Wogan, at Points of View, I'd point out that he plays records on his radio show, which are 'repeats'. If the quality is good enough, I think ^{some} programmes are well worth

repeating, as are songs on the radio.

I suggest. . . BBC1 could lead the way, and be the first mainstream TV channel to scrap 'the watershed,' so that ALL programmes broadcast are pre-watershed. This would mean, for instance, that the foul language broadcast on Panorama (28.9.03), and other programmes like Newswright; that foul language would be banned from such programmes & whole channel?

Also I suggest 'perverse & corrupting' items in "the News," broadcast throughout the day, could be minimised or excluded.

Also, any corrupting viewing in 'Eastenders' could be questioned.

I think, if you polled viewers asking "do you want cleaner TV?" then over 95% would say 'yes'.

Yours Sincerely,
Richard Keech
(31.3.04)