

24 MAR 2004

21.03.04

Dear Sir/Madam,

It has just come to our notice that there is a deadline approaching regarding consultation on the future of broadcasting and the BBC Charter.

We would like to state that we would be extremely disappointed if a decision was made not to continue with the BBC Charter and discontinue its independence from both Political interference and from Commercialisation. We desperately need in our view a balance in our great democracy to have an institution like this which is not leant on by either of these influences, however strong they may be and however desperately these interests would want to influence or control the media for their own, probably, narrow point of view. Broadcasting needs to be protected from such manipulation.

The BBC is a great institution and an envy, as far as we are aware of thinking peoples across the world. Its great range of output and impartiality, which caters for both mass and specialist audiences, can give a voice to minority interests in addition to mass appeal, so help and pleasure can be given to many. We find that Radios 3 and 4 are particularly outstanding.

We hope this view will prevail. Yes, it will mean a licence fee, but commercial media is not really free! We pay for it through the products we buy and the support of someone else's profits! This point should be made when confronting those who do not want to pay 'up front'.

If we have not sent this to the correct address, we would be grateful if it could be passed to the right place, as this is the only address we have been given.

Thankyou,

Yours faithfully,



(Mr. A.L and Mrs. P.D..Kent).

ack 25/3/04