

From: Shane Keeley
Sent: 13 December 2003 10:03
To: BBC Charter Review
Subject: Feedback

Hi,

In response to your key questions:

1/ What I value about the BBC.

I believe that the BBC sets the standard against which every other global broadcaster can be measured. It is therefore a positive influence on all broadcasting as other organisations are forced to compete.

Whilst I like to think that I am not a total couch-potato, I consider that the quality of my life would be greatly diminished were it not for the BBC; it is a major compensation for having to live in modern Britain.

It did surprise me to read how little revenue the BBC generates from sources other than the license fee. I had always assumed that the BBC generated so many quality productions that overseas sales would be playing a much more significant part in its funding.

2/ New Technology.

I find myself unimpressed by the hype surrounding most of the recent technological 'advances' and would like to think that I can go on enjoying TV & radio in the traditional way without having to fork out money that I can ill-afford simply to have the latest gadget.

Cultural Change.

There seems to be something for everyone, somewhere within the output of the BBC. No one person could watch and listen to all of the BBC's output; one chooses what one wants to see and hear. I am unaware of any person of group who claims that there is nothing for them on the BBC and would be inclined to think that such a person would be impossible to please and perhaps in too small a minority to merit the public expense to trying to please.

I would just like to give a special mention to the programme 'Still Game'. I moved from England to Scotland last year and discovered this programme for the first time. I understand that it was only available to viewers in Scotland and I assume that this decision was taken because viewers in England might have trouble keeping up with the Scottish banter. This is a mistake. Still Game is perhaps the funniest thing that has ever been aired. I bought the DVD so that I could show it to friends and family who visit from England. It always meets with the same response - everybody falls about laughing. I feel that not only would this programme be a smash hit in England, but it would also work wonders for Anglo-Scottish relations by revealing the Scots ability to laugh at themselves.

3/ Any Other Business.

Yes the BBC should run commercial business. It can surely generate money from sales of its programmes to other countries and it would be daft to ignore this. As for sales of merchandise I find it hard to understand why the BBC shop tries to charge such high prices for BBC material that can be bought cheaper elsewhere. In the past year I have bought the odd DVD and a couple of books by Alan Titchmarsh which accompanied a BBC gardening series. I enquired at the BBC shop initially as it seemed the natural first port of call but ended up buying the merchandise elsewhere.