

12th March 2004

Dear BBC Charter Review Consultation,

The unfair BBC TV Licence tax must end. It should never have been renewed at the last charter in 1996 ! How is the BBC allowed to receive television licence tax payments in this multi-channel age ? There cannot be a more blatant anti-competition scam in operation.

From the age old out-of-date original rules, we all pay for this "public broadcaster" whether we choose to watch the BBC or not. Recent polls show that the vast majority of people wish to scrap the BBC licence tax. On a BBC Radio 2 lunchtime debate one year ago, a caller made a very good point : "It is like going to you newsagent to buy the Daily Express, for example, but told that you must first also buy the Daily Telegraph."

I would like to enjoy some of the cable / satellite television channels, but I would have to pay for this subscription on top of the BBC tax, and as a low paid civil servant, I cannot afford this. I do not have a choice, there is no competition, I have to pay for the BBC. To add insult to injury, the BBC uses this tax for more BBC channels on cable / satellite that I cannot see ! Why not advertise ? The BBC already heavily advertises between TV programmes its own products e.g. the annoying " man jumping over rooftops" or the "old ladies on park benches with changing faces."

The licence fee gives the BBC an unfair advantage over commercial channels. ITV fulfils various public interest functions, news and sport better than the BBC. Without question, the BBC Royal Charter must not be renewed in 2006, the question is what about the millions of licence tax money that has wrongfully been taken from the British public in recent years ? Millions pay £116 per year for channels they do not want. When will we have fair television competition in this country ?

Yours faithfully,



Mr . A. Lee