

The Department of
Culture Media + Sport
2 Cochrane Street
Lander SW1 Y5 DH

29.3.04

Dear Sir or Madam.

Renewal of BBC Charter

I understand that members of the public are entitled to write to your Department on this subject and I enclose my letter.

I saw as the BBC that leaflets were available on this in Public Libraries. I went to our local main library. The staff knew nothing about it and in fact did not want to know or offer any help. This has caused me to delay writing and if I have raised matters outside the strict remit of the consultation subject that is due to the lack of information I was able to obtain locally. It is a pity

this has happened as it give the impression
that public consultation in this case is
a sham and probably a waste of time and
effort of those who write.

Yours Faithfully

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Renewal of BBC Charter

- 1 A new Chairman is to be appointed but the licence payers (out of taxed income) have no say. There is supposed to be secrecy over the applicants but there are the usual inspired leaks in the press. It is absurd.
- 2 The BBC is supposed to be impartial but this is questionable. One of the political correspondents sounds like a Government spokesman. His embarrassment over a recent Government vote was obvious. Opposition spokesmen are frequently cut off with "we have no time for more." If the opposition is mentioned a BBC host it is referred to as being irrelevant.
- 3 BBC 1 + 2 in Wales have become Sports Channels particularly on Friday evenings. I have to tune into BBC Scotland or Northern Ireland.
For the BBC to have 3 consecutive gardening programmes in one evening is probably too much. There are of course far too many repeats.
The BBC seems to be aiming for quantity rather than quality. The "in-house advertising" although between rather than during programmes is irritating and is becoming excessive.
There is rarely any financial stock exchange news when there is an aging population dependent on savings and pensions. This is a subject totally ignored presumably regarded as *infra dig* by the news

readers

The weather forecasting is badly arranged. The glowers reading the forecasts usual stand in front of the map showing where the weather is coming from. Portuguese television news used to do this much better.

Science programmes need to be much straighter. This is a country where science is disliked and people are ignorant. The BBC should be educating people. It was a great mistake losing the Royal Institute Xmas lectures.

- 4. The BBC must be wasting a lot of money on discordant disruptive and irrelevant incidental music particularly in scientific programmes. Channel 4 appears to be experimenting along this line, by reducing incidental music

Some years ago an Australian programme was shown "Man on the River. Peopling the Pacific". It was easily the best such programme my wife and I have seen.

Not long after it was repeated. It was clear and no incidental music. There would be a pause and the viewer was left with a view of what was being talked about - a Pacific island.

Towards the end of the second showings the programmes on BBC Wales kept being rescheduled.

One evening we happened to see a scheduled programme on American Indian graves and road building disturbance.

Next day we were going to see a scheduled programme of

Men on the Rim, when at the last minute a second showing of the programme on the American Indian graves and road building within 24 hours was substituted.

When Frank Carliff I was told that programmes of local interest were substituted for scheduled programmes from time to time. I pointed out that the American graves and road building was hardly of local interest to be told that nothing ^{would} be gained by continuing the conversation and was cut off.

That is the BBC way of dealing with a licence payer as I was at the time.

- 5 The question of violence and bad behaviour as shown by the BBC both in drama and on the news needs very careful consideration. In a matrimonial break up is shown as the norm as is alcoholic intake.

There needs to be much stricter control of cartoons and remarks on Christianity many of which are unpleasant if not deeply and deliberately offensive. They are not made about Islam or Buddhism so why are they allowed on Christianity.

6. Channel 4 probably gives the best news, although the bias in some of the items is obvious. Many of their drama and factual programmes are very good.

Assuming that the TV licence fee is to continue it is probably

line to withhold 25-30% of the fee and give it to Channel 4 and 5 to help these channels further develop their public service element.

March 2004.

2. Fox hunting is said to be wrong and bad for us. The BBC shows animals killing each other e.g. lions tigers and other carnivores. If there is one detailed shot there will almost always be two or three more. This needs to be sorted out and controlled.