

BBC Charter Review Consultation,
Department for Culture, Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur St,
London SW1Y 5DH

Dear Madam or Sir,

YOUR BBC, YOUR SAY

Question 1. The thing we value most about the BBC is its independence from commercial pressures. It does not need to compete with the so called Independent Television Channels for viewer numbers. It can therefore plan programmes for the discerning viewer rather than the lowest common denominator.

The types of programmes we *like* to watch are :- News & Current Affairs programmes eg Newsnight, Arts programmes, Drama & Crime series eg Pride and Prejudice & Frost, Quiz shows, Comedy & Satirical shows, Documentaries eg Archaeology and Horizon, Lifestyle programmes eg Antiques Roadshow & Cookery, Musical programmes (except Pop), Sport, Films (mostly oldies), and our grandchildren like the Childrens programmes

The types of programmes we *don't* watch are :- Reality TV shows, Soaps, Game Shows, Alternative Comedy, Football, modern Films.

Programmes we'd like to see back are :- Arena, Omnibus, Tomorrows World, the quality childrens' serials on Sunday afternoons like The Borrowers.

Programmes we'd like to see more of are :- Musical programmes (except Pop), Science & Engineering.

What we dislike most is explicit sex and violence.

The news programmes before nine o'clock should not show items that could be distressing to children eg the German cannibal case.

On a more technical note there are three things that annoy us about presentation:-

All too often the background music in documentaries is too intrusive and sometimes even drowns out the commentary.

The coverage at external broadcasts such as boat shows and car shows is spoilt by camera work that would be more suited to a Rock Video. There is far too much panning and zooming and we can't get a good look at the cars or boats. Also there are far too many shots of presenters' heads when informed voiceovers would be more acceptable.

Too many dramas have actors whispering. Any viewer or listener with any degree of hearing impairment (millions of us) can't hear it and loose the plot.

Question 2. There should be more & more channels on Freeview digital TV. We would like to see new channels for Music (other than pop), Science and Technology and the Arts.

We don't use the Internet much ourselves but have no objection to this being expanded provided it doesn't reduce the content or quality of the broadcasting, which should be your prime task.

Question 3. We don't use the on-line services. We're waiting for Broadband to come down in price.

Question 4. We have no objection to BBC running commercial services provided it doesn't reduce the content or quality of the broadcasting.

Question 5. The licence fee must be retained. Don't even think of advertising revenue. This policy has made the BBC the best service in the world. (Or it was before it tried to compete for viewing numbers with the commercial stations.)

Question 6. We don't know. We can only judge by results.

Question 7. It is likely that the effectiveness of the Governors is more dependent on the calibre of the people involved than whether they are within the BBC or external to it. As a rule small committees are more effective than large ones. On balance we would say keep the present system but have fewer Governors.

Question 8. If the public having a greater say means having committees trying to tell the BBC how to do their job we are against it. Perhaps the Governors should report annually to a Commons Select Committee if they don't already.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Lyon'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W' and a long, sweeping tail.

For Mr and Mrs W Lyon