

19th March 2004

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

Dear Sirs,

BBC CHARTER REVIEW CONSULTATION

These comments refer to the funding of the BBC.

If the BBC is to remain as a Public Service Provider, the present arrangements for funding are not appropriate to something which should be a Service, open to all. The present Licence Fee system is certainly not 'open to all'.

The collection of the Licence Fee is costly, particularly in terms of the amount of resources needed for the actual collection, the issuing of the Licences and the administration of the scheme.

The system for targeting Licence Fee defaulters is also exceedingly cumbersome and costly and I believe that the amounts recovered from prosecutions can scarcely cover the costs of doing so.

The Licence Fee at present provides the funding for only one provider of Television programmes – it is illogical to require users to hold a Licence before the products of other providers can be used.

'Pay-as-you-watch' would be a more logical system but this scarcely fits with the concept of a 'Public Service Provider'.

Considering that at the present time most households have Television, it would make much more sense to fund the BBC out of general taxation, which would avoid the costs mentioned above.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. M. G. MacKenzie