

22 March 2004

The Chairman  
BBC Charter Review Consultation  
Department for Media, Culture and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London.

Dear Sir

BBC Charter Review.

As around 95% of programmes on BBC television comes from England and relates mostly to English matters I feel that the BBC is of little relevance to Scotland. In fact the word 'British' I consider a misnomer and the name should be changed to the English Broadcasting Corporation.

Over the years I have noticed there is less and less content from Scotland in the national BBC news. Even when Scottish fishing boats sink with men lost there is not a word on BBC television news. Neither are Scots ever interviewed in BBC war documentaries. In the recent series on Dunkirk, the Highland Division was not even mentioned. Yet had it not been for them the other BRF soldiers would not have been evacuated. Churchill's abandonment of the Highland Division at Dunkirk resulted in 12,000 Scots being killed or taken prisoner. Apparently this was of no relevance to the BBC documentary makers.

BBC Scotland is a pathetic sub-station with inferior reporters. BBC Scotland news is usually about five minutes of trivia concerning Central Belt junkies, immigrants, or criminals. There is little any reporting from other areas of Scotland.

On Sunday mornings, apart from the odd police report, there is no Scottish news on Radio Scotland news bulletins. The Scottish news bulletin just have a couple of items canned from Radio 4 news.

The imbalance of BBC Scotland in favour of the Labour Party I find most distasteful. BBC Scotland, in my view, overtly sides with the pro-Union parties and suppresses the case for Scottish independence. If such bias extended to the commercial world the matter would no doubt be referred to the Monopolies Commission. However, there is no referee in Scotland to see there is political fair play reporting and that there is no political manipulation of the news. For example a few weeks ago a House of Commons report stated that the three MPs who had contributed less to the House of Commons were the Labour MPs representing East Lothian, the Western Isles and Aberdeen. Not one mention by BBC Scotland of this crucial fact – could the reason be that it was anti-Labour and that the SNP member for Moray had the best record in the House of Commons? Does this not reek of political bias by BBC Scotland?

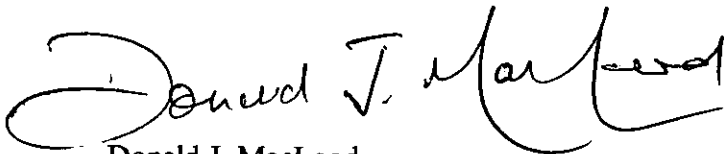
To change the present corrupt media structure in Scotland is virtually impossible and the link between our state broadcasters and their selection of Unionist cronies in the Press as panel commentators on political discussions should be curtailed. There is a gross imbalance in the air time given to Unionist journalists compared to Nationalist ones, such as those writing for the *Scots Independent*. Scottish network programming is swamped with Unionist-dominated representation.

England's establishment view is faithfully reflected in BBC bulletins and in the composition of panel members in discussion programmes. This is not so in Scotland.

Outlying stations which reflected Scotland's disparate culture, have been emasculated and now broadcast on a controlled intermittent basis with a much reduced staff. BBC Scotland appears to be busily involved in removing any dangers that its audiences might develop a taste for things Scottish.

I feel that BBC Scotland is a carefully supervised regional outpost of Broadcasting House, London, with little relevance to present day Scotland. Even BBC Scotland's identifying TV trailer, depicting gyrating male buttocks as a central piece, gets as close to mooning in contempt at its Scottish audience as could possibly be imagined.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald J. MacLeod". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Donald J. MacLeod