

MH

Tessa Jowell, Culture Secretary,
Houses of Parliament, Westminster. 24th January 2004

Dear Madam,

TELEVISION LICENCE FUNDING

I think the time has come to re-assess the funding of the BBC.

Since the advent of the Digital services the Terrestrial element of the programming has become 'diabolical'. The Licence Fee goes up by more than inflation each year (much like the Council Tax) with services becoming much poorer for the majority of viewers, particularly those who either cannot receive the full Freeview Channels or cannot afford the set-top box to view these.

For sometime the BBC has been 'allocating' a 2 minute segment at the end of a programme which sometimes equates to 6-8 minutes over an hour, so in the course of a day I am paying for 'dead' viewing and think if they are going to do this on a permanent basis it could be used for advertising to pay for better programmes and not so many repeats. As for the BBC losing their 'impartial broadcasting status' - this too for the past few years has disappeared and more balanced news can be found on ITV, 4 and 5 (perhaps the advertising revenue they get makes them look at all sides of a news item?)

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. M.K. Newman

Copies to:- BBC, London,
Tim Yeo - our South Suffolk MP.
Charles Kennedy, Leader of Liberal Democrats.
✓Gordon Brown, Chancellor.