

BBC Charter Review Consultation
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
2-4 Corksper Street
London SW1Y 5DH

29th March 2004

Dear Sirs,

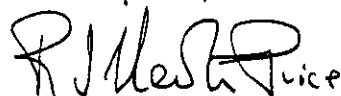
The BBC Charter Review Consultation
The leaflet entitled "You BBC: You Say"

Above all, I value the BBC for being in the words of the leaflet: "independent of Government". It is a constitutional safeguard. If ever we were to have a government plotting to abuse its powers or to reduce the freedoms of citizens, I would hope and expect the BBC to be strong enough and independent enough to expose the plot. Commercial media groups might well do the same in such circumstances but it might be to their commercial advantage to remain silent.

To maintain that independence the BBC should be shielded, as far as practicable, from Government or Parliamentary control.

I hope that the reference in the leaflet to "fair trading" was intended to be equivalent to "fair dealing" and not a hint that any BBC commercial activities which compete with those of a favoured media mogul might be restricted.

Yours faithfully,



(RICHARD NEWTON PRICE)