

March 12th 2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you regarding the consultation questions relating to the future of the BBC:-

"WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT THE BBC" I particularly am grateful that there are no advertisements on the BBC. Overall I think that the presenters etc. on BBC are usually people who "come over" in a good way.

Clear, articulate etc. I am just very concerned by the number of gutter rag programmes such as "THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER" etc. Such programmes are just fit for the rubbish bin. I can well understand why Desmond Lynam said he "would not be seen dead on such a programme".

There is far too much sex, violence and bad language on TV in general. Such an appalling decline in standards of good taste and decency is reflected in the job society we live in.

"HOW SHOULD THE BBC ADAPT TO COPE WITH CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE" Wisely. Our culture is being affected in a very bad way by the decline of moral and spiritual values. These values have stood the test of time. Moral and spiritual

values have been in constant decline since the nineteen fifties. The results: a ten-fold increase in crimes and an enormous increase in social problems. Historical studies by various historians show conclusively: "that no society in history has been able to survive for long without a strong moral code," and, "that immorality corrupts individuals and destroys societies!" WE REAP AS WE SOW.

It is little wonder that Britain has the highest rates of unwanted teenage pregnancies in Europe. We are living in a very permissive society that ridicules most of our basic ethical and moral values such as abstinence. We are bombarded daily by the images and messages that are imbued with sexual connotations from the media and by advertisers. The BBC is not the worst offender regarding the appalling decline of standards of good taste and decency in the media; however there is no doubt that there are far too many programmes which give an appalling example to the easily influenced young people. It is quite pathetic that programmes such as "Men behaving badly" and "They Think It's all Over" are classed as entertainment.

There needs to be much more emphasis on decent family entertainment - instead of producing more rubbish or offensive programmes.

"Should the BBC run commercial services? Why not."

How should we pay for the BBC" The licence fee method is all right as long as we are getting value for money. Too much emphasis on programmes that appeal to the lowest common denominator. Standards urgently need to improve.

"Is the BBC organised in the most effective and efficient way" No. The promiscuous wreckers are having a field day. We need programmes which educate, inform and entertain without causing offence to people who are trying to live decently and are trying to bring up their children in the same way.

There should be more room for religious programmes. Our society is in the gutter morally because we think that we can get by without adhering to the moral and spiritual laws.

We live in a job-culture which is fueled by the appalling decline of standards of good taste and decency in the media. Having affairs is portrayed by the media as being a perfectly normal way to behave. The appalling trauma caused to adults and children caught up in divorces is glossed over by an ignorant irresponsible media.

"How should the BBC be run. How should it be regulated?" The BBC should be run by people

who stick to the original BBC statement when it first started broadcasting: "Nothing that would cause offence in standards of good taste and decency." (words to the effect)

The BBC governors should be open to receive guidance and criticism where required. Deciding what kinds of programmes are broadcast should not be left in the hands of a handful of people. Much more public consultation and listening to viewers requests should be standard procedure regarding programme content.

"How do we ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and to Parliament?" By making sure that standards are kept high. Ofcom should act when standards are dropping. The BBC is publicly funded. There has to be a means whereby ordinary peoples views are taken seriously. Standards have been allowed to drop into the gutter. This has to be totally reversed.

Yours sincerely,
John O'Neill