

Sunday, January 25, 2004

Dear Sir,

### **BBC Charter Review Public Consultation**

Below are my views on the BBC, which I hope you will take into account during the Charter Review.

#### **I value most**

- The wide variety of programmes on Radio 3 and Radio 4; these are both top quality in content and transmission.
- The fact that it doesn't cost anything to receive radio programmes - free to all regardless of the means to pay.
- The World Service which provides people all over the world with a free source of information and entertainment, which I am sure is appreciated by those who live under repressive regimes. This is a nice gesture Britain makes.
- The BBC's independence of government and private enterprise.
- The high quality of the BBC's Television programmes especially costume dramas and nature programmes

#### **What can it do better**

- Have more discussion programmes on television and use technology to take viewers opinions into account when conducting polls and obtain feedback on programmes.
- Improve News 24, which seems to be concentrating more on the presenters' personalities than the news content.
- Don't dumb down to the level of commercial television.

#### **Commercial operations**

- I think current commercial operations such as the Radio Times and the BBC Shop selling BBC related merchandise is fine but go no further.

#### **Public accountability**

- Perhaps make more use of new technology to more frequently assess public opinion.

### Funding Method

- Keep the License Fee so that the BBC remains outside private enterprise.

I think it would be dreadful if the BBC became more commercial and ended up like the Television Stations in America, I am sure good quality radio would disappear just as it almost has in America.

Gerald H. H. Page