

KEY QUESTIONS:-

23/3/04.

1. what do I value most about the BBC?
News, both radio & TV. - Sport, coverage is good within the natural constrictions caused by the greater spending power of SKY & ITV.
Arts, good but could do with more coverage on tv.
2. BBC Adapting to changes in technology etc.
I think they should carry on improving their advances in the internet and digital fields.
3. Provision of TV, Radio & Online services.
They are very good now, just carry on improving.
4. BBC Commercial Services.
They should carry on making revenue from those productions capable of commercial exploitation.
5. Paying for BBC.
Carry on with licence fee.
6. BBC Organisation,
For a large diverse company the BBC has on the whole been well run.

Items 7 & 8.

How should the BBC be run and regulated and made accountable to the Public.

The Director General should be free of any political control - should be the Governors and Chairmen with representatives of the Public on the board to oversee the complete independence of the BBC and to maintain the high standards we have come to expect from that organisation.

I should like to add a few personal comments towards the debate, especially as I have seen the results of a Public Broadcasting service similar to the BBC being commercialised, as could happen here if the British Public is not careful. The New Zealand Broadcasting Service was originally set up on similar lines to the BBC and that was how I experienced it when I lived there but since I moved back here it has changed completely and viewing it now when I visit there and getting the feedback from my friends there it is ghastly, it is dominated by SKY and there seems to be no regulation of the number of commercial interruptions in each programme it is as bad as the American TV which I have experienced when I visit my sister over there. whatever happens we must maintain the present mix of Public and commercial broadcasting we have now, that way the high standard of service we receive will continue and any question of funding the BBC by any other means as an alternative to the licence fee must be resisted. I must, on that subject make the following comment.

PTO.

THE LICENCE FEE.

In the debate about funding, how much does commercial TV cost? say for a single person household with terrestrial TV. I know a percentage of the cost of any item or service goes towards the advertising of such item or service. If I buy that item or use that service I have to pay. That is no different to paying the licence fee, I can of course opt out of paying the licence fee by surrendering my tv set but I still have to pay the cost of commercial TV whether I watch it or not. At this time of writing, the cost of all BBC services available to me amounts to approx. 32p a day, compared to the cost of your average daily newspaper for instance, I say that is excellent value for money. Perhaps some time when licence fee funding is debated someone will also break down the daily cost to me of commercial TV?

yours faithfully

L. Payne