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BBC Charter Review Consultation
Dept for Culture Media and Sport
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To whom it may concern,

I LIVE IN THE SUBURBS OF ONE OR BRITAIN'S MAJOR CITIES AND I AM TOLD I CANNOT RECEIVE DIGITAL T.V. WITHOUT A NEW AERIAL.

I do not really want the digital programmes and I am a pensioner but until you have made it at least possible for all licence fee payers to receive it you had better not turn off analogue.

1. What do you value most about the BBC?

Its commitment to serve all communities through the diversity of its channels and because it is not driven by commercial considerations it should not have to fight for audience share.

I deplore a) the recent trend to superficial audience participation by encouraging Emails and phone ins during or after serious news progs. They are not "You and Yours "

b) the development of personality presenters on Radio 4 news progs. I do not want to hear their giggles and jokes and I am not interested in their personal lives. It is acceptable in gardening, science, nature progs. but news is different.

I like a) balanced news - and the analysis that too rarely goes with it.

b) Most of Radio 4. especially book progs, and Melvin Bragg! I'd like more of these philosophical type progs.

c) There is a lot of good analysis, comment, interviews, on the World Service. More of that could be transferred to the British network. I am a long term loyal listener and I fear there has been a reduction in those sort of programmes for more music, phone in and pathetic comedy transplants from Radio 4.

d) Humanism and /or atheism should be treated seriously and given space.

2. How should the BBC adapt to changes in technology and culture?

Ensure that analog isn't switched off before all can receive digital without having to subscribe to Sky.

Use the extra channels to ensure that minority views and culture not likely to be targeted by commercial companies are covered.

3. What do you think of the television, radio and online services the BBC provides?

So far so good but some worrying trends - pandering to commercial pressures from outside..

The BBC should not try to descend to the lowest common denominator with its "vote for the best 10" type programmes or endless property, garden, makeover or reality telly stuff.

4. Should the BBC run commercial services?

Yes.. It provides a standard against which the commercial operators have to be measured.

Go back to in-house production teams. That is how you will get the quality and the risk taking. Buying in can work sometimes but outside production teams will tend to be operating under financial pressures which will keep them away from risky ventures.

5. How should we pay for the BBC?

Licence fee, upped to keep rise with inflation. A bit more propaganda knocking on the head that idea that commercial broadcasting is free needs to be done. Every time we buy a product we are paying whether we like it or not. I can't opt out of that.

6. Is the BBC organised in the most effective and efficient way?

It's worked well so far with a few minor blipps but compared to the mess it could become, I'm happy.


7. How should the BBC be run? How should it be regulated?

If it ain't broke don't fix it - and it isn't. Resist the commercial lobby. I'm one, they are many and mightily resourced.

8. How do we ensure the BBC is properly accountable to the public and Parliament?

Leave it as it is.

Yours faithfully



Ms. Mary Judith Palfreman