

30. 3. 04

Dear Sir/Madam

As a long-standing member of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer I am concerned that the BBC should maintain its Public Service Standards.

~~Although the BBC does still produce good drama I think that there could be more good quality~~  
Drama, particularly, of classic plays and broadcasts of stage plays. I also feel that there isn't enough classical music or opera on television as there used to be. It is either to found on BBC4 or on very late at night. Why, for instance do we not get the same coverage as we used to of *The Young Musician of the Year*, and at a reasonable time of the day? It had been slowly getting 'dumbed down' of late, with its ever more trendy and hyperactive presenters, until the last one when it was only on the radio in the day until the Final.

Although I am not particularly interested in sport, I feel that the BBC does cover this well. I particularly enjoy the golf and snooker and, of course, Wimbledon, and would hope that the BBC will continue to cover these. It is regrettable that the BBC has lost the Boat Race. My son always watches the Formula One races and I have noticed how irritating it is when the adverts break into the action.

One of the things that we like about the BBC is its lack of adverts and would therefore be sorry if the licence fee was to go or a more commercial approach was pursued. But I see no reason for it to cease its commercial interests (its magazines and videos etc) just so long as this does not dissipate its Public Service aims. I also see no reason why the BBC should sacrifice its role as educator in a ratings competition with its commercial rivals.

We also very much appreciate and enjoy the radio, in particular radios 4 and 3. And with the trend towards endless soaps and reality television we find that we are listening more and watching less: having said that we do tend to watch the television news, and have regrettably noticed an increasingly tabloid approach to news coverage, and often presentation triumphs over content.

Just one more thing, why are we being forced to contact programmes via the Internet or phone? I have noticed recently that, when you can find an address of a programme to write to, that letters are not answered..

Yours faithfully

Marie Paterson (Mrs)