

## KEY QUESTIONS

To help people think about the BBC, we have drawn up a list of key questions. We want you to send us your responses to them. They are:

- **What do you value most about the BBC?** For example, is it the news, sports, arts or educational coverage? How well does it serve different nations, regions and communities throughout the United Kingdom? What subjects does it cover less well? *Not well*
- **How should the BBC adapt to cope with changes in technology and culture?** For example, how should it take account of the rise in use of the Internet or digital television? *The intelligent, educated section of the community has a right to be taken into account*
- **What do you think of the television, radio and online services the BBC provides?** What changes, if any, would you like to see? *Very occasionally they are quite good but only very occasionally*
- **Should the BBC run commercial services?** The BBC produces magazines like The Radio Times and DVDs of popular programmes like The Office. Its main commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, put £123m back into public services in 2002/03. Do you think the BBC should continue running commercial operations? *No*
- **How should we pay for the BBC?** Is the licence fee the best method or can you suggest any alternative? *Yes, by licence fees, with consideration for pensioners and the handicapped*
- **Is the BBC organised in the most effective and efficient way?** Is it set up to provide the very best services for the public? *This is your job, not mine*
- **How should the BBC be run? How should it be regulated?** The BBC's Governors currently have a dual role. First, overseeing how the BBC is run internally. Secondly, regulating it on behalf of the public interest – for example, making sure it meets standards on accuracy, impartiality and fair trading. Is this the best approach? *The standards are low and getting lower. Ratings seem to be the only criterion*
- **How do we ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and Parliament?** Should the public have a greater say and influence on the BBC? If so, how? *Yes. By having some control over the Governors*

NEXT STEPS *Subjects less well covered are science, arts, and culture* M. H. O. Paterson. 24.1.04

Of course, you may not have views on all of these issues, or you may have opinions about other things the BBC does which are not covered by the questions above. We want to hear these too. What is essential is that you make your voice heard.

You can do this by sending your views on the BBC to:

E-mail: [bbccharterreview@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bbccharterreview@culture.gsi.gov.uk)  
 Post: BBC Charter Review Consultation  
 Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH  
 Phone: 0207 211 6418

We aim to publish all responses within ten working days of receipt. However, you can request your response to be confidential. You can also give your views directly to Ministers at a series of public meetings being held across the UK. Details will be published on the Charter review website shortly.

All responses should be sent by 31 March 2004.

What happens next will in part depend on the outcome of the consultation you are being invited to take part in.

But this is not your only chance to comment. Once we have collected your initial views we will set out firmer options for the future of the BBC and give you a chance to comment on these. Parliament will also have a say.

The Charter review will be completed before the end of 2006.

# YOUR BBC