

# BBC CHARTER REVIEW.

23 March 2004.

With reference to your request for views on the BBC, I have restricted myself to six items in order that, hopefully, you will actually read them. So, here they are :-

## 1. STANDARDS

The BBC used to set standards others tried to emulate. It represented a body you could trust. It must be the duty of the "Board of Governors" to supervise the type and content of proposed programmes in order to ensure that the highest standards are maintained. The "Board" must be independent of the production personnel and not be afraid to question anything thought to be not of the highest quality.

## 2. LICENCE FEE

----- This should be cancelled and replaced by Government funding. This would give freedom from "ratings" mania which is currently reducing standards to the lowest common denominator.

## 3. ECONOMIES

but out superfluous introductory dancers and channel number gimmicks. Reduce the number of people on programmes and excessive travel and hotel expenses to a minimum. There are far too many programmes, with two or three presenters where one used to be adequate.

## 4. BACKGROUND NOISE

but out all background noise - one can't call electronic noise and drums "music" - especially when we are being spoken to or there are natural sounds we could hear instead. We should not be afraid of the occasional silence.

## 5. SUPPORT THE ARTS

More programmes, please, showing people being creative rather than making celebrities of those incapable of achieving the

simplest thing. Master classes, and people discussing their hobbies could be inspiring as well as educational. It is not essential that all programmes have to be "entertaining"

6. PLAYS AND ENTERTAINMENT

There must be good playwrights and script writers out there still in existence! - give them a chance! lets have less reliance on sex and childish ideas of entertainment.

Also please rescue the "Radio Times" - it has now become a comic!

I hope the above ideas can be at least <sup>xxx</sup> considered, it is very sad to feel that the BBC is sinking to the lowest common denominator in an effort to be "popular"

Yours Sincerely

David Patten