

22 March 2004

BBC Charter Review Consultation  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to give views on the BBC Charter Review Consultation. To facilitate this I have numbered your Key Questions 1 to 8. The writer who is 82 wishes to put an old person's viewpoint.

Question 1

I do not take a daily newspaper. The BBC is a lifeline for my wife and me with its huge and splendid subject material. As an example the writer is interested in "life-long" learning. The BBC does us proud on this count and the great others. Commercial TV and Radio is outclassed. majority of

Question 2

A matter for technocrats and, for culture, possibly a psychologist.

Question 3

I have no in-put of online services and would repeat the programmes are invariably first-class. The on/off switch takes care of the odd turkey. However there is one glaring discord where the Corporation shows remarkable insensibility year after year. It is on New Year's eve. Plenty of "pop" of course but one would be hard pressed to find culture.

Where is the traditional music, song and dance in those emotive hours before midnight when senior citizens become very aware of the remorseless march of time? Please send us to our beds uplifted and inspired. The words of Rita's mother in "Educating Rita" come to mind - can't we have a better tune?

Question 4

Yes, but with taste.

Question 5

Yes. To compete in the "market place" will reduce standards.

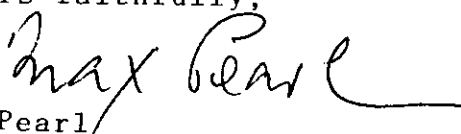
Question 6

Yes, but quality control is the crux of the matter.

Question 7 & 8

Cannot comment. I lack knowledge but fear the greater say and influence of the Yahoos.

Yours faithfully,

  
M. Pearl