

Dear Sir,

18-3-2004.

BBC Charter Review Public Consultation

I am writing to give you my views re the above using the format in your leaflet.

I watched a good deal of your Television programmes, mainly new documentaries, drama, sport and arts coverage. I listen avidly to Radio five live which for me is the most outstanding Radio programme both from the news point of view and sports commentary.

- A What I value most about the BBC is its independence. I feel strongly that The Hutton Report went over the top with its criticism of the BBC's role in attacking the Government for the war with Iraq. I believe the BBC was asking the right questions and getting no satisfactory answers from the Government over the crucial issue of weapons of mass destruction. The fact that some errors were made is not denied but it did rightly put the Government on the defensive and have to address the issues raised. Pamorama is an excellent vehicle for showing the value of probing many difficult matters using the BBC's cloak of independence. I trust the BBC for its approach of challenging Governments and the Establishment and not having to answer to any vested interests.
- B I have a high regard for the television & radio services. I believe the BBC is at its best with costume drama productions, documentaries such as Panorama, Arts coverage and the excellent Antiques Road Show, and the Natural World. It has lost out on sports coverage because of the high costs involved, but remains good on Athletics and Rugby Football. I would like to consider taking a lot more interest in some Amateur sports particularly Boxing, a sport it helped to nourish in the past.
- As someone still very involved in sport I find Radio Five Live an excellent vehicle for commentary coverage. So much so that I will listen to it in the bath, car, office and wherever I go around the country. It is a must for me, in addition I like its AM coverage on news, views and talk ins. It has a blend of the amusing mixed with the serious and the Nine to Ten O Clock Spot is good at engaging listeners comments
- C I think the BBC has a case to run some commercial services. Clearly, this is desirable when it uses some of the proceeds to put back into public services. However, there is a caveat this should not be at expense of quality or provision of minority programmes.

- D I believe the licence fee is the best method for paying for BBC. It is a universal payment not difficult to collect whereas any other method could be both complicated and problematic to enforce
- E I Would not know enough to be able to comment productively as to whether the BBC is organised in the most effective and efficient way. Like all large bureaucracies it needs to constantly monitor how it is performing and my guess is that improvements are needed.
- F I feel strongly that the BBC Governors should be democratically elected. By following that path they have a stronger position to govern the role of the BBC. The grounds are overwhelming for democracy to be introduced to ensure that the institution is more effectively looking after the public interest.
- G Accountability to the public is crucial. The difficulty is how can this work, what is the best way of achieving it. 'Where there's a will, there's a way'. There needs to be listeners and viewers panels regionally based. The panels should have a mixture of elected members and appointed ones with the relevant skills and experience.

There should also be a Forum Which brings together representative from the Regional panels to meet with the governors twice a year. This would have a monitoring role, would exchange information views and opinion. The Forum might well have some kind of Executive powers but that may be a process which comes about after it has had a trial run.

For it to be accountable to Parliament the Governors should report annually on its activities to the select committee on Culture Media and Sport.

I hope my comments might in some small way prove useful to your review

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dudley Savill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dudley Savill