

4th March, 2004

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

Dear Sirs,

BBC Your Say

I wish it was possible to "pay-as-you view" rather than pay for a BBC licence when these days we find ourselves watching Channel 4 as much as the BBC, despite having to endure the advertisements. That way we could register, and pay for, our preferences.

Talking of advertising, we strongly resent the increasing amount of time in advertising future programmes, programmes we cannot receive, and those hideous "interludes". I can't imagine what their use is and they are offensive. We cannot turn them off lest we miss the beginning of the programme we want. We thought we paid for proper programmes, though presumably the "interludes" fill up time cheaply.

There seem to be an inordinate number of cookery, gardening, housing programmes. It is not unknown for us to go from Monday to Saturday with nothing on BBC, only to find 2 or more programmes on Sunday at the same time as programmes on Channel 4 that might interest us.

It is also extremely aggravating to have endless advertising for web-sites and inter-active programmes, especially in the middle of a David Dimbleby or "Antiques Road Show" programme. We do not have, or want, digital TV and resent being blackmailed/bludgeoned by the BBC/government into buying it, even if it were available. We would like the money to go on more decent programmes. I also understand that digital TV can cause problems for sufferers from Meniere's Disease, of whom I am one. It possibly also affects epileptics. Cameramen swinging their equipment around can also cause distress and is quite unnecessary. We rarely seem to get a decent view of what we are supposed to be looking at.

A major annoyance is your high-handed decisions to cancel the one programme we wanted to watch to give saturation coverage to what you deem major news - the last was the capture of Saddam Hussein. A mere announcement, would have been more than enough. After all, you have a dedicated News programme for those who are interested..

We used to watch "Horizon" regularly but it is now so dumbed down and so bittily produced it is irritating. My husband is the scientist but I used to be able to enjoy the programme on my level.

On the plus side, we enjoy your transmissions of ballet from the Royal Opera House at Christmas and would like more such programmes, though I am sure they are expensive. Your recent Dunkirk series was excellent, as was "Wit" with Emma Thompson last year. We would much appreciate more history and straight drama programmes, also art.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Saxon