

22 January 2004

Dear Sirs,

Regarding the BBC Charter Review, I am strongly in favour of the Corporation being financed by the licence fee **provided that the output on both radio and television is of an appropriate standard**. Unfortunately this is not the case at present. Among the major defects are:

Too many repeats

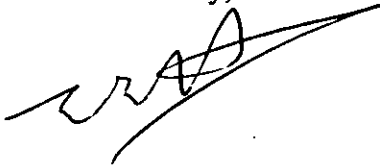
Far too many trivial programmes, especially cooking, homes, gardening (TV), phone in programmes (Radio) and panel games and quizzes (TV and radio).

Much too much advertising. The BBC is meant to be advertisement free, but it is virtually impossible to watch or listen to two consecutive programmes without being inflicted by advertisements for other programmes between and sometimes during programmes. This happens even when programmes are running late.

General 'dumbing down', often subtle and gradual, for example, transferring to Radio 3 light music and jazz, which would formerly have been on Radio 2 or its predecessor.

Carelessness and ignorance in grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. In 1981 the BBC published an excellent booklet entitled 'The Spoken Word'. Why are these guidelines so widely disregarded?

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. W. Scott', written over a horizontal line.

J. W. Scott