

1st March 2004.

Dear Sir,

If you were expecting a great response to your public consultation document I think it might have been advisable to mention it in the Radio Times. I apologize if you did, in which case we all missed it! I found a copy of the document in the local library, here is our reply.

My wife and I are both 57, we have two children, one still lives with us and is 29.

Except for the news, which we watch live, we find it necessary, due to shift work, to tape most programmes and watch them at our convenience. Luckily our tastes are similar. We enjoy Historical, Scientific, and Factual programmes. Over the last week we have taken a poll of programmes watched, and find that, (excluding news programmes) BBC 1 Ten, BBC 2 Eight, ITV Four, Channel 4 Six.

At this time I must point out that we are unable to get Freeview, so our choice of programmes is limited. It is very annoying to think that mobile phone masts are springing up all over the place, but its too difficult to serve large parts of Dorset with the Freeview service. The price of a dish being prohibitive and out of the question.

Regarding future programmes, we feel a greater emphasis should be placed on light entertainment and variety.

We have no problem with the way the BBC is run. My wife and I are quiet happy regarding the funding of the company. However our son has suggested you should only pay for the programmes you watch and he suggests the quality of programmes might improve.

One major gripe I have is with your portrayal of medical and associated news items. Why do you have to broadcast explicit scenes of blood and gore. To put it into perspective, you do manage to refrain from explicit sex scenes every time a rape case is reported. So please, go easy on the blood!!

Yours faithfully



Mr G. Shipton