

Dear Ms Appleby,

23/3/04

Thank you for the leaflet which I have passed on to a neighbour (who was also looking for it!) My husband + I have collated the following responses!

Subjects Enjoy the way the golf-matches are presented, please keep up the variety, don't give in to non-stop football!

TV concerts, operas, gardening, cooking (Rick Stein much enjoyed as you get information about producers + farmers + small businesses). Radio ~~Pro~~ Prom. concerts, live from the Met + other concerts. The news on Radio + UK news on the World Service are often better than TV as they have no need to tailor the material to visual scenes. BBC 2 usually good.

Weather reports! - We really dislike the rapid, conversational "jolly" reports + tourists from other countries find them difficult to understand, one has to pick out a few facts from the rather patronising babble. Just give it us straight!

Must be precise + we need wind speed + direction described better as we live in the country + that makes a huge difference to what we can do outside. Urban dwellers probably are not aware of it but for us direction of wind is important

Technology - We're too ignorant of the Internet etc to comment. Just don't abandon us Terrestrials - remember in a real

electric crisis all the computers go down + we'll need the basic services.

(+ satellites) ← solar flares!

Services We look to the BBC for truth - we dislike trivia and speculation (leave that to the others!) An essential service needs to be available in a crisis. Proper advice + information less waffle - if the accurate information isn't there, don't pretend it is.

Paying Yes to licence fees. We help to pay for other people's special services, why shouldn't they pay for ours. Also it prevents a commercial avoidance of awkward subjects.

Regulation. Governors should lay out strategy & see that staff carry it out properly. Annual report to Parliament by Governors. MP's should be far more active so that Public make their view known through them. Direct say by Public is open to a vociferous minority swaying "crowd" opinion which is not necessarily wise or good.

Other points - Bring back an equivalent of "Water colour challenge", I enjoyed it - a lesson in How to - is more enjoyable than a "celebrity" showing off. Don't forget rural communities, TV & Radio are very important, not so many other entertainments

TV, less soaps! Sometimes there's one after another for a whole evening, thank goodness for Radio!

Commentary services by BBC - seems a good idea. How do we learn more about them? if we don't have the Internet??!

Thank you for the Review, be more efficient in supplying All the libraries next time!

(Mrs.) C Spragge

17th March

Dear Sus,

In spite of several requests, our local library still has not received any of the leaflets or forms that were described in the publicity regarding your Charter Review. Would it be possible for you to send me one?

I think it's very important to keep the BBC a UK-wide organization, subdividing it might weaken it & cause a take-over by commercial programmes. Also it must keep its independence, its high quality public service and freedom from political or financial control as far as possible. I personally watch the BBC 1 national

news but after that nearly all BBC 2. Sometimes a whole evening is taken over by "soaps" on the other channels, please keep up important informative and factual programmes. Channel 4 is also good but the constant ads are very irritating. Often a good factual programme (on either channel) is pushed beyond its sensible length, filling up the time with migraine-reducing camera work + intrusive music. Why not just make 2 shorter, simpler programmes? Excellence does not have to be showy.

I see nothing wrong in the licence fee, after all, we pay for other people's education + health care through taxes. Also subscription means we don't have ~~the~~ the chance to be offered something we might not have chosen by paying for it - so missing out on something we might have enjoyed or benefited from.

Yours faithfully, C. Spragge