

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

28 March 2004

MISCELLANEOUS PERSONAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Licence fee method and independence are supported. General commercial services and advertising are uncontrollable. Advertising seriously mars many programmes elsewhere.

Digital radio broadcast of a range of continuous music channels without announcers or interruption would be welcome. Channels on the lines of Music Choice (but radio not television) included in Sky packages are envisaged. If copying Music Choice was considered unfair, then it might be practicable to compensate or come to some arrangement with that establishment. Broadcast of informative texts are useful but perhaps not essential.

Individual tracks in my opinion ought not to exceed say 3 to 5 minutes and should be continuously varied. That is, a piano piece ought not to be followed quickly by another piano piece, Mozart by Mozart and so on - so that a listener who does not particularly enjoy say piano pieces need suffer only shortly and intermittently:

Broadcast of bad language should be discontinued and forbidden. Particularly resented is projection of words describing filth of one kind or another into homes and workplaces and elsewhere. One four letter word is commonplace. It ought not to be. Many of Lord Reith's ideals were good. Independence should enable the BBC to assist raising cultural levels and to avoid sliding and running with the pack and giving continuous offence. Homes which would not accept much broadcast language in-reality are defenceless against projection through the airways.

Similar objections apply to offensive images on television.

Necessary warnings of the most resented language in Radio Times or elsewhere should be clear and not dishonest. Language most complained of is not strong language or adult language, it is filth language and should be so described.

John Stary
John Stary