

Mrs. Julia Stirzaker

1st March 2004

Dear Sirs

I understand that you are interested in the public perception of the BBC. Although I rarely watch BBC television, I have relied quite heavily in the past on Radio 4's News & Current Affairs. Sadly, that has now lost my trust. I would like you to know that I now begrudge paying the licence-fee to that organization.

The BBC's output can be split into entertainment and information. I believe that the former can be handled equally as competently by channels other than the BBC.

Although I read Ceefax, this media is handled just as well by Teletext and other agencies. The Learning Zone has its merits, but again there are alternatives to this type of tuition. BBC Radio is valuable - assuming the BBC learns the lessons from the Hutton Report - but I would like to have a Radio England. When I have suggested this in the past to the BBC, my letter has been dismissed as having no worth by a Mr. MacFarlane from his Glasgow-based office. Yet I have had occasion to write to the BBC about lack of ethnic balance. Let me give you the example of the 3 Scots & a Welshman debating the West Lothian Question on a recent R4's *Today* programme. An English issue without an English representative. I received another unsatisfactory reply from Glasgow. A Catrina McDougal answered perfunctorily - from Glasgow - my concern about anti-English reporting. Generally I hear from Glasgow but I have had a response from an Alison Rae in Belfast.

These events have reinforced my opinion that the BBC is being run by/for Celts. In fact, I see the BBC as representing the minorities and, being an average 52 year-old English woman, I find it no longer caters for me. I have socialist-leanings and I appreciate why I should subsidize others but I have interests too. Furthermore, I strongly object to financing the present-day sensationalist-tabloid journalism of the BBC. It is destructive. The country is becoming ungovernable because of demands made by the hysteria of the British media often led by misguided reporting by the BBC. I don't have to buy newspapers yet I am forced to financially support the BBC. I am hoping that you will change that situation by removing the licence-fee. The BBC may well

then consider more carefully the needs of the other 85% of its 'subscribers'.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Stirzaker', written in a cursive style.

Julia Stirzaker

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