

**MR IVOR A SUTTON**

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**TESSA GILES Department**  
BBC Chartered Review Consultation  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH

27<sup>th</sup> March 2004

Dear Madam,

**Re: The BBC TV LICENCE...WHY?**

It seems a reasonable question for the people who live in this country to ask why, in this day and age, does the BBC continue to hold the British people to ransom by making it compulsory to pay a TV licence even though BBC1 and BBC2 both have a limited ability, unlike Sky and Cable networks that are subscription based, to provide a diverse range of programming to reflect the diverse society that we all live in.

Though I enjoy political debate programmes on BBC News 24 and on BBC1, this still does not warrant the reasons why the BBC still wants to maintain its hold on the British public especially as political programming is not only covered by the BBC.

I have recognised over the last five years that entertainment, movies and comedy for black and ethnic groups in Britain is an all time low. It is also evident that you have turned the once high rated and exciting Friday evenings, that was once governed by American soap opera's or comedy, into a less enthusiastic event.

As a black Britain I am aware that the black and ethnic proportion in the UK is approximately 8% or under £5million. Why does the BBC lack any black influenced programming to reflect hardworking, intelligent, entrepreneurial black Britain's? BBC2 recently introduced an inspiring series about Asian entrepreneurs in Britain and I hoped that at some stage after this final series there would be a follow-up introducing black entrepreneurs to the series and giving the opportunity to express their opinion regarding the bureaucracy, red-tape and prejudice attitudes that exists in society making the less fortunate less likely to achieve success.

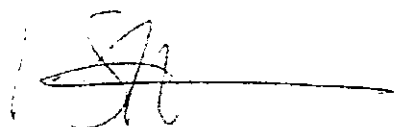
I believe it is time for BBC1 and BBC2 to become advertising channels or at least part of the Sky and Cable networks joining the subscription packages. The BBC has to be honest with itself and admit that in this day-and-age it cannot, by itself, produce continuously a large range of diverse programming to reflect the British population.

The BBC should also admit that it is insulting the British tax payer by having a TV licence and at the same time recognising that the British tax payer also has subscription packages for Cable or Sky allowing us to more choice, freedom and flexibility with a multitude of channels and diverse programming.

I am asking the BBC to be proud of the wisdom it has achieved through its growth, but to accept that it has a responsibility to provide choices and diversity to the people of this country. The British public pays enough in taxes and in television subscription charges therefore giving only one solution to the BBC television licence. I believe this is the way forward for the BBC and believe that a broader independence will allow for greater competition in broadcasting giving a greater choice for all.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ivorn', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Ivor Arnold Sutton**