

BBC Charter Review Consultation
Dept. for Culture, Media & Sport
2-4 Cockspur St
London SW14 5DA

10th March 2006

Dear Sir,

I recently picked up a leaflet, "Your BBC Your Say":
There are 2 matters which concern me regarding BBC TV, both related to programme content.

1. CENSORSHIP

The first is the promotion of smoking to young people.

On documentaries, in "reconstructed" scenes, smoking is frequently emphasized, always showing the smoker as the assertive, self-confident person, and never the down-at-heel, negative person. There was a similar campaign for 3 years from 1999 to 2002, covering not only documentaries, but

most other programmes as well (other than news or current affairs).

The fact that young people are influenced by such subtle and underhand propaganda is illustrated by the statistics for the number of people taking up smoking during this period.

I feel very strongly that there should be control over

such content of programmes — call it censorship if you like — in view of the harm that is done.

2. SCIENCE

Secondly, and of rather less importance, could we please have a science programme on TV, matching the quality and content of "Science In Action" and "Discovery" on the BBC Radio World Service?

Yours Sincerely,

J. R. Tate

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