

24 February 2004

Dear Sir,

In answer to your leaflet:- YOUR BBC YOUR SAY.

What do I value most about the BBC?

Its independence, both commercial and political. It is vital that it retains complete impartiality in all aspects of broadcasting. This places the burden of responsibility for its behaviour on the regulators whoever they are.

Coverage of news is changing to tabloid journalism, this is exceptionally worrying. Sport is more than adequately covered and needs few changes. Arts and educational coverage has been declining, (channel itv four is often better). Welsh language programmes are well covered. Scottish and N. Ireland are poorly portrayed.

Science and astronomy are marginally neglected. Archaeology, like time team (on itv 4), are missing. There are too many soap and situation programmes, these are well catered for on commercial and pay broadcasts, if these were reduced, there would be more space for other interest groups. Old films are very interesting.

How should the BBC adapt etc?

The digital broadcasts are poor; they add nothing to the excellent current mix, (except - see above). Interactive is a bore, telephone reaction samples a weird crowd of people and is only useful as a money spinner. The one exception is the "Restoration" programme, more of this please.

TV, Radio and on line services?

No comment, no experience or interest at present, the adverts look good!

BBC and commercial services. Excellent, why the regulators try to prevent the BBC using its monopoly to advertise its own products is a mystery. All is fair in love and business. Leave the BBC alone to do what the regulators allow.

How should we pay?

Licence fee is the only way; tried and tested. (Pay TV is an expensive waste.) Paying at the post office or by direct debit is brilliant. Keep up the adverts for this. Increase the fines for those who can afford to pay. Reduce the fines for those who find it difficult. There will be many people who watch BBC as an inexpensive option, long may they continue to do so and free!!!

BBC organisation.

I have no idea, but think the standard is dropping slowly as above. It looks like value for money from my perspective. Hopefully this review will stem the decline and keep up the standards.

How to run?

Pass, let the experts do it.

How to ensure its accountability?

Leave it to public opinion, there is a lot of that around. The less regulation the better, the more independent the better, but ensure that the Rupert Mudochs, politicians and pressure groups, of this world, have no unilateral influence.

GENERAL COMMENTS.


In becoming tabloid oriented, the latest departures from settled opinion straight away get accorded a respect that puts them on an equal level of credibility with that settled opinion. It is as if new things no longer have to be substantiated.

Religious broadcasts should be given more important slots, we are a Christian society and this needs to be reflected more in the BBC output. The lowering of moral tone is the one real problem in present day society, (news papers and pay TV in particular), and the BBC is in a position to address this problem.

The BBC must not stoop to publishing private information no matter what the temptation. The regulators must address this issue. To quote an example of the problems arising from this 'prying':- A politician spoke in private about an abused person, saying that they were maladjusted. This private statement should never have been aired as the airing damaged the victim and gave no benefits to the community. Private opinions are private and must not be used for journalistic gain. There must be more sensible ways to address the problem of politicians being human. Similarly, normal people are not interested in the private affairs of 'STARS', just because they are in the public arena does not make them fair game for mischievous reporting.

I hope this helps in your review, you may use it as you wish.

Yours faithfully,



E M Taudevin.