

BBC Charter Review Consultation,
Dept. for Culture, Media + Sport,
2-4, Cockspur Street,
London SW1Y-5DH.

5th March 2004.

Dear Sir,

Following a meeting of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer on March 4th about the BBC Charter Renewal and Ofcom Review of Public Service Broadcasting I wish to have my say on this subject, based on what I heard during the proceedings:-

I value the BBC as an independent organization, and hope it will remain that way, with independent productions. BBC must be accountable to Parliament, and new Governors and Chairmen should be freely elected.

Regarding Coverage, several members felt that there should be more coverage of news, current affairs, sciences and

costs, to keep BBC strong. Ethnic groups are catered for, e.g. Reggae and Soul programmes on Radio 2. Comedy is thin on the ground. We would like less teenage modern rock programmes on Radio 2, but more music styles to cater for mature audiences. Before 1991, we had music from well-known West End shows on Saturday nights, which we looked forward to. We are grateful to still have the BBC Big Band on Monday nights.

Perhaps there should be fewer BBC television channels, providing funds for more quality programmes at all times.

The BBC should be financed by (A), the continued licence fee, plus (B), subscription for services. Advertising is questionable, as several members complained there are already too many breaks and "trials" within programmes. Private investment would be another option.

(3)

The BBC is best organized as a single entity and management, members decided that splitting it up into regional sections with multiple managements would cause chaos and weaken this structure. A strong single organization would meet standards on accuracy, impartiality and fair trading. Moral standards should be considered, in the wake of certain sleazy television programmes recently aired.

We all feel that the BBC World Service, although funded from a different source, does a wonderful job, and should be allowed to continue broadcasting in future.

Yours faithfully,
Josie Ven.