

19 February 2004

BBC Charter Review Consultation
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
LONDON
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sirs,

Given that it is the BBC's remit to "Inform, Educate and Entertain", I feel that by and large they are successful in this. I believe that their news broadcasting is generally better than the more lightweight ITN News. However I think that there should be a better balance between International, National and Local News, with more emphasis on the latter.

This leads me on to believe, as I did when ITV started that the BBC should be responsible for more regional centres and studios than they have, other than Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with regard to television broadcasting. The majority of television studios are for news broadcasting, and not for programme making. (other than Birmingham)

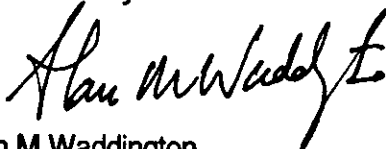
I think there should be more emphasis on Regionalisation than Centralisation with regard to TV, though I do find that local BBC radio stations are lightweight, and that there should be a range of ages and people on local broadcasting boards. I like to listen to Radio 4 when at home, but when travelling by car any radio station will do, in order to concentrate on driving over long distances! I rarely listen to local BBC or Commercial Radio stations.

I have no difficulty with the BBC publishing magazines, DVD's or audio or video recordings, or indeed commercial spin-offs from programming as a means to providing income. However I do find some difficulty with the increasing licence fee when a great majority of programmes are REPEATS, and not NEW productions, over the BBC TV Channels. We were certainly better off with fewer TV channels, and more innovative productions, rather than the cheaper productions related to the home, gardening and reality TV, which we seem to endure over most terrestrial TV. I note that the other TV channels also resort to repeat films of BBC/ITV productions from the past: Children's TV is generally good; however the presenters often do little for English literacy and grammar, and too often we get 'americanism's' in speech, and sometimes bad language, which can not help the Government's Education policies or system, and lead to "yobbish and anti-social" behaviour"

The BBC should realise that not every body is hooked up onto the Internet, or have a computer, (or indeed wish to have a computer) so that it is infuriating when a non-user is discriminated against when one can only send e-mail or text messages to interactive programmes.

Generally I think the BBC should continue much as it does, but with more emphasis on Regional TV and Radio Broadcasting and with more locally produced programmes. I hope that you find these comments of interest.

Yours faithfully



Alan M Waddington