

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

29 March 2004

Dear Sir,

I will write about radio: I enjoy classical Music on Radio 3 and Classic F.M. Also talks and discussions on the former. I rely on Radio 4 for the news. Of late it is not as impartial as it used to be. There is not enough world news, so much is happening worldwide that is never mentioned. Instead, too much repetition of petty domestic issues.

World at One news should not have been cut to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Nor should "Today in Parliament" been shortened. I enjoy it v. much, more please. "Round Britain Quiz" is excellent, especially Nick Clarke's quiet reasonableness. "Feed Back" is very good, also "Our Own Correspondent" and "Gardeners". I used to enjoy World Service after 1 am but it has deteriorated so much. The excellent news seems to be no more, just rubbishy pop. I do miss "Lilly Bolders". Please can we have it back.

My chief delight is the Daily Service at 9.45 am on Radio 4. I love the traditional hymns and prayers, and the talks are often very good. Please do not change it, or any earlier, it was better at 10 am. I do miss the Daily Service on Saturday: you did move it, 10 mins only, to Saturday evening at 10.50 pm. Then you cut even

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that out. You may have forgotten, but I haven't. Please may we have it back. I used to enjoy the Sunday morning service at 9.30am, and even more at 10am, in a more civilised era. Since you moved it to 8.07am it has been a disaster. We get all sorts of odd things, but not often a traditional morning service. There is too much singing and not enough prayer and sermon. No doubt it is hard to find churches to take part, it is too early. Most churches meet at 10.30am or 9.30am or 11am. I know you were so pleased when you found more people listened at 8.07am. but that is because the people who used to miss the 9.30 & 10.30 services because they were in their own churches, are now able to listen before they leave for church. However, ~~you have cut out the people for whom the~~ Radio Service was first designed: - those who cannot get out to church, the old and frail or carers. For the old and frail, 8.07am is too early for them to be ready. Often they rely on carers to give them breakfast and help wash and dress, which will often take place at the very time the service is now on. However, when it was at 9.30am they would be fed and dressed ready for a lovely service. So the old miss out and the more able get a double portion: - Radio 4 service and then their own church they can get to. Not fair! Back to 9.30am please. I'm sure the churchgoers would not mind if they knew the reason.

Last Sunday 28 March, the service was from Iceland. Why? There was not a single hymn in English, everyone was in a foreign language! What on earth

was the point of that? It was a waste of time, an insult, showing complete lack of concern for the listener. Even the tunes were unfamiliar, and the English translation of the first lines showed that hymns in Iceland are not the same as ours.

I've often complained about hymns in Latin or French or African. One might be excusable, but not the lot!!

I do not want, or expect to hear, bad language on radio, at anytime of day. Or blasphemy, or dirty jokes. The B.B.C appears to have accepted, and indeed promotes, all three, along with excessive violence and sex on television. Many people complain, but complaints make no difference. The offensive material gets worse and more. This is a misuse of funds, especially in the light of B.B.C. obligations, not to offend public feeling, as set out in the Licence and Agreement with the Government. The Governors of the B.B.C. should not be their own regulators. An independent Regulator should ensure agreed standards of taste and decency are met. There should be power to pre-vet content of programmes. In most films very little bad language and violence & sexual conduct can be justified on grounds of context. This shows that Codes and Guidelines continue to be ignored. It is long overdue for Ofcom to do their job and take effective action to stop once and for all offensive material. Material which is responsible for

soaring crime figures in this country, especially amongst children. It is time the Media faced up to what they are doing and stop it. Things have gone much too far. Children between 10 and 17 committed 49,200 crimes in 2003. This included 6,000 violent acts and nearly 400 sexual offences. There is a 50% increase in girls involved in crime. Crime in U.K is out of control, and so is its feeder, the Media.

If T.V. was banned for a month I am sure crime would drop. It seems to me that some of the real criminals are in the Media, earning a fortune for ruining our country and our children.

I hope and pray you will have the honesty & courage to put things right.

Thanks for all the very good programmes, stick to those!

Yours faithfully,
Bayl R. Ward

P.S. I love the "Proms" on Radio 3, also Roger Royle's hymns 8.30 Sunday on Radio 2; followed by "Your Hundred Best Tunes" So sad Alistair Cooke has finished. Can you replace him?

So sorry you never have "Compline" on Sunday even 11pm. Please bring it back; interspersed with a proper Epilogue. (Not "something understood") P.T.O

P. P. S. I am puzzled that so much world news is not mentioned in Radio 4 news.

We never hear of the small minority of Christians in Iraq, whose life has greatly worsened. Their shops have been burned and they are now intimidated by extremist Moslems as never before.

In Eritrea there is a reign of brutal terror against Christians. You never mention it. It would help these atrocities to cease if you exposed them. Young believers are locked in shipping containers for months, until they deny their faith. Speak up for them, please.

You never mention the brutal treatment in North Korea, of Christians.

Nigeria - In February 100^s of Christians killed by rampaging Fulani Moslems. Driven from their homes yet again. No word on Radio 4.

I wonder why?

Thousands and thousands of Christians are killed every year, others imprisoned and tortured, yet you keep quiet - very strange

B. R. W.