

To: BBC Charter Review Consultation,
Department of Culture, Media & Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street,
London SW1Y 5DH

05/3/04

Dear Reviewers:

"YOUR BBC YOUR SAY"

I am responding to your request for my views for consideration .

Herewith my responses to your "key questions".

I value most the full range of programming being available.
Regional emphasis ought to be enhanced allowing more opt-outs from the National beyond the News.
A better definition of specific Regions is needed, to allow the LOCAL more impact.

Changes in technology ought to FOLLOW public needs and not IMPOSE changes. The BBC ought to KEEP the analogue option going . This might well provide the enhanced LOCAL/REGIONAL TX potential for those programmes.

Online services illustrate probable imposition of services and therefore likely to make for an exclusion of 'viewers'.
Such new methods of delivery ought not to devalue the other more general present methods.
IF such services are needed (not imposed) they ought to be exclusive and paid for separately from the licence fee.
The licence fee ought not to be used for such additional forms of delivery.

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(Page 2: Leonard White/"YOUR BBC YOUR SAY")

BBC 'Commercial Services' should be strictly limited.
Nothing should interfere with the independence of the BBC
Charter...

Selling programmes AFTER production is permissible.
Pre-sale production deals introduce influence(s) which confuse
and often diminish the product: and should be very carefully
undertaken.

BBC should sell their expertise, particularly in relation to
technological and production training. It is (has been) a bad
and shortsighted policy to sell-off/close elements and
departments of technology and production in which the BBC
were/are leaders. This policy which results in buying-in
elements of production is counter-productive and NOT cost-
effective.

The licence-fee method of paying for the BBC is the best way
and must be maintained for the general service.
Specific specialist services MIGHT be funded apart from the
general licence fee, but NOT at the expense of diminishing the
general service.

BBC Governors should continue to maintain the independence of
the Corporation and their remit internally and on behalf of the
public preserved. These two elements should, if anything, be
strengthened. Appointments to this body ought not to be made
by Government. Separate 'Regulation' might be applied but
with strictly limited reasons - such as National Security or
suchlike. The main regulators should be the Public who
through the licence-fee are in fact the 'owners' of this public
service.

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To maintain this public accountability the public should be strongly represented on the Board of Governors; and those representatives linked to Regional viewing/listening 'posts' who themselves link to local voluntary reviewers.

I write with the experience of working in Television since it began. At first as Actor, (at Alexandra Palace Studios) then subsequently as Director and then Producer.

Although I am a Member of several Organisations directly connected with Television:-

Alexandra Palace Television Society

Cinema and Television Veterans.

BAFTA

Royal Television Society

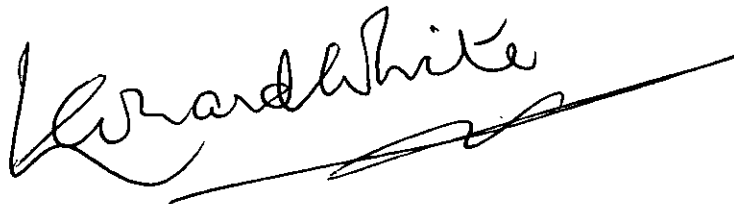
Directors Guild of Great Britain

BFI.....

I write strictly from my own point of view.

Yours sincerely,

Leonard White

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leonard White". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name. Below the signature, there are two vertical dashed lines extending downwards.

The new Charter must not allow the importance of high quality and wide opportunities for new talent to diminish.

Television is NOT 'Cinema' and must not be allowed to forget that.