

To whom it may concern

I watch and listen to more BBC TV and radio channels than any other broadcast. I also believe that the corporation has a very high standard of quality programming.

My own feeling is that the BBC should maintain and even increase this quality and not simply be into the audience viewing numbers war with commercial organisations.

I have heard it expressed that if the BBC were to make very high standard programmes, which it is more than capable of, then the competition will flounder and even struggle for survival and thereby take the variety out of television altogether.

Surely this argument could also work the other way and encourage a type of renaissance in TV and radio. At the moment there seems to be a steady decline in television as reality shows increase apace and other trivia with a new generation growing up without any knowledge, understanding of the deeper and more interesting aspects of our culture. When did we last see an important play, live classical or jazz concert at prime time viewing or any other time for that matter? We should not simply give in to the market as it were.

Why is the weekend dominated by sport for example? With fewer films being shown on Saturday or Sunday. I recently saw a John Osborne play on BBC4 and was reminded of the vast storehouse of treasures we have.

On the question of funding, clearly the existing licence fee arrangement is unfair as it does not take into account peoples' ability to pay. For example pensioners and unemployed. Some system of relief should be made for disadvantaged people. I am against advertising per se as it could be the thin end of the wedge.

Please let us have a public debate on TV and/or radio to thrash out some of the issues.

Yours faithfully,

John Wilkes

