

## Your BBC – Your say : BBC Charter Review - public consultation by DCMS 2004

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is asking the British public to give its views on the BBC now and in the future. The BBC's activities are governed by a Royal Charter – a document that shapes what the BBC is for, what it does and how it does it. A review of the BBC, called the Charter review is now being carried out. Once it is completed, the DCMS will be able to consider what the BBC of the future will look like.

Anyone with a television pays for the BBC through its licence fee. That gives them a stake in its future. Since 1927, a review has been carried out every 10 years or so to see how the BBC is serving the public and to consider its future.

**You can play a role in this review by letting the DCMS know what you think. Your views matter. Nothing is ruled in or out of the review. It's your BBC; have your say.** (More info is on the BBC & Charter review website - [www.bbccharterreview.org.uk](http://www.bbccharterreview.org.uk) or at local libraries.)

### KEY QUESTIONS

To help people think about the BBC, the DCMS have drawn up a list of key questions. They want you to send them your responses. Their key questions have been set out here as a questionnaire by *mediamarch*, with space provided for your comments, thus making it easier for you to respond.

**Please note you do NOT have to respond to every question.** (If you need more space, continue on the back of this sheet.) **The questions are:**

- **What do you value most about the BBC?** e.g. is it the news, sports, arts or educational coverage? How well does it serve different nations, regions and communities in the UK? What subjects does it cover less well?
- **How should the BBC adapt to cope with changes in technology and culture?** e.g. how should it take account of the rise in use of the internet or digital TV?
- **What do you think of the TV, radio and online services the BBC provides?** What changes if any would you like to see?
- **Should the BBC run commercial services?** The BBC produces magazines like *The Radio Times* and DVDs of popular programmes like *The Office*. Its main commercial arm, *BBC Worldwide*, put £123m back into public services in 2002/03. Do you think the BBC should continue running commercial operations?
- **How should we pay for the BBC?** Is the licence fee the best method or can you suggest any alternative?
- **Is the BBC organised in the most effective and efficient way?** Is it set up to provide the very best services for the public?
- **How should the BBC be run? How should it be regulated?** The BBC's Governors currently have a dual role. First, overseeing how the BBC is run internally. Secondly, regulating on behalf of the public interest, e.g. making sure it meets standards of accuracy, impartiality and fair trading. Is this the best approach?
- **How do we ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and to Parliament?** Should the public have a greater say and influence on the BBC? If so, how?

**Other Comments** (continue on back of this sheet if necessary):

Name: J.K. Wilson

Address: .....

Signature: J.K. Wilson

**Return this sheet to:** BBC Charter Review Consultation, Department for Culture, Media and Sport,  
2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH Tel: 020 7211 6418 Email: [bbccharterreview@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bbccharterreview@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

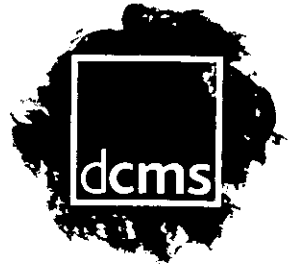
The DCMS aim to publish all responses within 10 working days of receipt. You can request that your response be kept confidential. You can also give your views directly to Ministers at public meetings being held across the UK. See Charter review website for details.

**Closing date for your response to arrive at DCMS : March 31<sup>st</sup> 2004**

I do not <sup>like</sup> swearing on T.V  
& I think "Father Ted" and  
"The Vicar of Dibley"  
programmes make fun  
of the churches.

I am quite happy about  
the T.V licence I buy stamps  
each week.

Ms. Margaret Roper  
7, Richmond Hill  
Bath  
BA1 5QT



25 March 2004

Dear Ms Roper,

**BBC Charter Review**

Thank you for your letter to the BBC Charter Review Team of the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

On 11 December 2003 Tessa Jowell launched the BBC Charter review with a wide-ranging industry and public consultation. This consultation is supported by a package of survey research and direct engagement with viewers and listeners.

We intend to publish a Green Paper at the end of this year, which will bring together the results of the consultation and other strands of work to form policy options for further consideration. We are grateful for the comments you have made about the BBC and have fed them into the Charter review process.

Thank you for your interest and contribution to BBC Charter review.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NR Appleby', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Natalie Appleby  
BBC Charter Review



March 15<sup>th</sup> 2004

Dear Sir,

In reply to your request in the national press for views and comments on the future of the BBC I would like to make the following points:

- ① In spite of the mistakes made recently by the BBC, I think its independence from outside interference such as the government of the day, is absolutely vital for the democratic process in our society.
- ② The best way to ensure that this independence is maintained is by continuing with the licence fee, in spite of the competition from other companies. I think most people in this country would support this. The existing system of a Director General and a board of governors should continue.

③ It is perfectly fair for the BBC to advertise its own services and to make money in this way, in spite of the accusation of "commercialism".

Finally, a small personal opinion: Some of your political commentators, particularly John Humphries, Jeremy Paxman and sometimes Andrew Marr, are too much concerned with their own image and personas, and too much concerned with their interpretation of events, rather than factual reporting. The listener should more often be left to form their own conclusions about events - E.g. "The government has had a bad day".

Yours faithfully,  
Margaret Roper.