

Mark Wright

March 3 2004.

Tessa Jowell,
Culture Secretary,
Dept. Culture, Media + Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street
London,
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Minister,

BBC Charter Review consultation

I think that a review of the BBC charter with a consultation process attached is a very good idea. I am busy and don't often write but felt the need to get my views into this process.

I value the BBC a great deal for its contribution to British society and would not want to see it watered down. Although I have cable TV I'm often driven up the wall by the constant commercials and it's so relaxing to watch the top quality programmes from the BBC without interruption. And the same goes for Radio from the BBC - like the TV it's entertaining, informing and innovative. I think innovation is a key role for the BBC which can try things that 'safe' commercial concerns would never attempt. I really don't think that the commercial interests would have backed 'The office' for example. But the British public did, when given a chance to see the 'second' run of the first series - ^{via} the recommendations of the few who saw it first time round.

I therefore do not at all favour commercial interest in the case of -
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the BBC's remit, although it's fair enough for off-shoots like selling videos and DVD's. I am happy to continue to pay a licence fee to ensure this continuity of 'good' culture through the BBC beyond 2007. I fear that society has fragmented enough and a strong and popular BBC is a powerful unifying force in society. The same goes for libraries, where I obtained the 'Your say' leaflet. Libraries are a useful source of community information like 'Your say' and should be protected and improved, perhaps with lottery money, as many of them are falling apart and not appealing ~~enough~~.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Unit