

BBC Charter Review,  
Dept. for Culture Media &  
Sport,

2-4 Cockspur St.

London SW1Y 5DH

07/03/05

Dear Sirs,

'Your BBC, Your Say'

I am responding to the advt. in the national press of today's date:

These are the points I would like you to address:-

1. Editorial/Political

Presently (and infuriatingly!) the B.B.C. news and current affairs editorial staff are too much part of ~~the~~ - or partners of - the print media. I want the B.B.C. to be the place where the excesses of the Mail, Express, Mirror, N.O.W., even the Guardian and Times, may be examined and, on occasion, mocked, lampooned and generally held to account, as they say.

I give you an example: Mr. Humphrys had a great opportunity a day or two ago when the M.M.R. news came from Japan that the job was all but 100% OK. Was it his timidity (he's not famous for it) or editorial policy that stopped him having tremendous fun with the Daily Mail? This so-called newspaper has championed the flawed research by a Dr. Wakefield (I think that's his name) and as part of its political agenda has cruelly and dishonestly put off hundreds probably from getting their children vaccinated. Why didn't the great interrogator enquire when we could expect a full apology (they're good at demanding apologies!) & an immediate front-page and sustained reversal of what they've been urging? Plus, have they put aside, say, a billion pounds to compensate any poor

Kids who've got measles through being unprotected?

Not just the Mail. In today's Mirror the idiot T. Parsons appears to be running a little anti-MMR2 thing of his own. This is a hugely irresponsible use of the enormous privilege the newspaper people have. Parsons needs to be invited to a studio and suitably mauled. The editor should never have printed it.

## 2. Use of 'celebrity' panellists from the print media.

Should be banned forthwith. They already get more than enough coverage. Get real people.

## 3. Programmes

I'm a B.B.C fan of 60+ years. Pro-licence; very pro- people like D. Attenborough. I can't get enough of e.g. serious documentaries

on Einstein. I still need help with his wonderful thinking. Programmes about people like H. G. Wells - poor, sickly youth to great communicator. A good, faithful remake of The Time Machine, in period dress, would go well I feel. Tono-Bungay equally.

Above all, for heaven's sake, detach the BBC from the rest of the media and let it take on the role of <sup>press</sup> predictor, to put on programmes whereon braver and more personable people than I could ever be (but who have more or less my idea that the print press is getting way too big for its boots) cut the pontificators down to size and where the shadowy proprietors and editors get some of their own back.

Yours faithfully,  
