

BBC Charter Review
Department for Culture, Media & Sport
2-4 Cockspar Street
LONDON,
SW1Y 5DH

18th March 2005

Dear Sir,

I wish to take advantage of the invitation to comment on the future of the BBC but cannot at present access the questionnaire that you have apparently made available.

I would however like to make three specific points that might be considered.

1. I can remember when the BBC was thought to be politically neutral and when it appeared to take great care to handle news and discussion programmes so as to ensure that this was the case. In recent years I am left with the distinct impression that many presenters and editors are active supporters of one political party and that many decisions reflect this. I hope that this position can be reversed and the BBC be removed from the influence of politicians by the removal of active members of political parties from its Board etc.

2. On a more general note I would hope that programmes be edited to avoid unnecessary bad and foul language which is now a feature of so many light entertainment and similar offerings as well as in dramas. Recent Red Nose day presentations were particularly unpleasant. It would be nice if the BBC led the way again in the use of good English rather than slang.

3. At times there appears to be little difference between BBC and commercial stations in the lengths of flyers, advertisements and the rather odd sequences used to denote intervals. The loss of the "flying balloon" marked a definite downgrading of that particular set of interval items. Can we not have a return to sequences about Great Britain and relegate such as the energetic Zulu(?) dancers to travel programmes where their athleticism has a proper place. Similarly the sequence of two male dancers performing on a small rooftop is rather pointless.

No doubt these matters indicate that I am of a certain age and not one of the favoured young. Equally I do not binge drink, misbehave at football matches and so on but trust nevertheless that the grey viewpoint will be taken into account

Yours faithfully,

