

BBC Charter Review Consultation,  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport,  
2 - 4 Cockspur Street,  
London.

26<sup>th</sup> May 2005

Dear Sirs,

I welcome the news that the Government believes that the BBC should have another ten year Charter and that it should be funded by the licence fee. I think it is important to have high quality broadcasting without advertising. Even though, as a pensioner, I no longer pay the licence fee, I feel it is right that the BBC has a direct responsibility for serving all of the public and the licence fee gives it independence.

However, I have heard that the BBC may be in danger of losing some of the licence fee to other broadcasters. I think it would be wrong to give part of the licence fee to broadcasters who are out to make a profit.

For those of us who can no longer go to the theatres and concerts, quality entertainment on the radio and TV is much appreciated - especially when it is not interrupted by ever-lengthening commercial adverts! Apart from the entertainment aspect, I would like to express my appreciation of the BBC's news and current affairs programmes, including their local radio station (Southern Counties).

I understand that in the next few years analogue receivers will be phased out and replaced by digital technology. I am not clear what the benefit of this will be, but imagine the cost of switching to digital will be considerable - both to the BBC and the public. If the benefit of the switch is environmental, this should be explained to the public and the cost supplemented by the Government - to avoid alienating the public and/or causing the BBC to cut-cost their programmes.

Whatever the future holds for the BBC, in my view it is essential it remains independent from Government and is truly representative of the people.

Yours faithfully,

*K.S. Harding.*

(Mrs Kathleen Harding)