

BBC Charter Review
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2 – 4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

28th April 2005

Dear Sir or Madam

My reasons for not having a television are quite simple, the primary purpose of television is for the education and I emphasise education and the light entertainment (comedy, music) of the viewer and not for the purpose of titillation. As a broadcaster you have a moral obligation to ensure that the viewers mind is stimulated, challenged and enlightened by programmes that respect the viewer's intellect. So why is it that over the last 25 years the quality and standards of television have fallen dramatically.

Television must portray an underlying positive moral message. So where does that bring us with programmes like East Enders showing domestic violence and drugs, Sex Lives, Video and Naked Jungle with its gross nudity, the Jerry Springer show in its most degrading form, a programme for people of very low intellect. I also object to supporting the sleazy life style of some of your presenters. As Jeremy Paxman I believe once said, you pay exorbitant wages to newsreaders and presenters that basically a monkey could do a better job of.

So why is it, that we now have television who's underlying theme seems to promote banality, greed, spite, and vulgarity without any attempt to promote the rewards of hard work and qualifications, to educate and provide information. With soaps that are on before the 9pm watershed you show domestic violence, unmarried teenage mothers homosexuality and even pornography. I do not buy the argument that you are only reflecting what happens in life, as if we needed to be reminded of the unattractive aspects of everyday life. Television should have a feel good factor as epitomised by Walt Disney. Comedy should insinuate, but never go over the top, in other words avoid swear words. If the attempt is to shock and attract the viewer, this will only have a limited hold on the viewer until the shock value becomes mundane. Which brings us to Big Brother and reality television, a very sad reflection, on how low television has sunk; the shallow world of celebrity culture.

Finally I am also quite appalled and disgusted that the BBC in the recent Tony Martin case, paid a convicted criminal with over thirty convictions, who has never done a days work in his life £4,500 of licence payers money. I was always brought up to believe that crime does not pay, what kind of moral message does this send out to youngsters.

I grew up with television in the Sixties and Seventies watching programmes like Blue Peter, Animal Magic, Rolf Harris, the Parkinson show, David Attenborough, Wild life, Dads Army, Steptoe & Son and Faulty Towers. At the same time I also followed the BBC's excellent sports coverage and Royal events. My earliest memory of television is perhaps the Laurel & Hardy films, which you introduced to a whole new generation. The BBC of old stood for good solid family values, but over the last 25 years these standards have been allowed to drop all to often.

I will acknowledge that the BBC is probably the best in terms of the quality of programmes on offer and that there is always an on off button if you don't like a particular subject. But what happens is that you now have a generation that cannot think for themselves and make that decision. I do not want myself, or my children to have to worry about that choice until I am convinced that the overall standards have improved. So that this miraculous invention that came into the nations lives fifty years ago, can once again be enjoyed by all members of the family as truly representing family entertainment.

Yours faithfully

Stuart C Inkster

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C.C. BBC Complaints.
TV Licensing