

28/5/05.

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to respond to your invitation to comment upon the BBC, and I am sorry that unexpected "life events" and the lack of a weekend, local mail & train service will cause this letter to arrive later than intended.

The following areas are I think poor :-

Communication with the public / Licence fee

Image of the BBC as presented by the BBC

Whilst drama, and documentary work is good.

What do I mean by poor?

My understanding is that the large number of complaints about the weather map has resulted in a change of host by the BBC and this will be changed. However the large number of complaints about Jerry Springer the Opera did not result in a change of host because this was in the public interest / artistic. Where does the BBC say what is meant by "in the public interest" and define what is meant by "artistic". Too easily it seems to become a put on the head by Herbie - who knows best

If only we - the public - will tolerate.

Can we hope for a production of the banned play from

the Birmingham Rep re Sikh religion and its issues which are in the public interest?

It needs to be said that my preference for TV is to view the ITV channels, as such the licence fee is to my mind yet another tax imposed by an agent of government (The BBC). Auntie tells us that it is too difficult to change the point of funding - yet the BBC + Central Government (Civil Service) make an appointment of the best brains in the UK. Suppose we had a dictatorship which ruled that the BBC had to be self funding at the end of 10 years with a reduction of public funding being pro rata reduced each year for 10 years. I have a belief that the BBC would survive and would triumph. It is not too difficult it just takes effort.

Many programmes are good - though what is good is a subset of personal taste. But The Apprentice was excellent (though I don't want another prog^s) likewise Nature, and costume dramas. When I was young the BBC was a byword for high quality news and current affairs programmes. These seem to have been sidelined or have reporters saying to Labour ministers "When we win the election ---"). For me this is not good enough.

In short when it is good it is capable of being very good, but increasingly it panders to poor taste, appears not to know where it is going and is experienced as an additional tax. Yours Sincerely, Richard
SAND