

Dr. Kai Kermani, Bsc. MBBS. LRCP. MRCS. DRCOG. MRCGP. BCRP

Department for Culture, Media and Sport	
DATE RECEIVED: 13/03/05	
Official (TOS)	Correspondence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Official Reply	
As Appropriate	
Information only	
PCU REF:	9978

7 March 05

Dear Miss Tessa Jowles

I sincerely hope that in renewing the BBC charter, you will ENSURE that the rights of the blind and visually handicapped is fully protected.

Although I am blind, I live an independent life on my own and like many other blind and VIP enjoy 'watching' TV for which I also pay a licence fee. I have recently noticed that the BBC, especially the sports department, are pushing some programmes like the most recent Davis Cup tournament from Israel on to their free view programme which can only be viewed if you have a box. Even if I had had a box, it would have been totally useless to me as choosing a programme on it is totally dependent on choosing menus either from pictures or dialogues on screen. Since none of them have verbal instructions, it would be totally useless to me as a blind person living on my own. Consequently, this deprives me of my enjoyment of some of the programmes, which would thus be barred to me. Apart from being totally insensitive to the needs of their disabled viewers, I strongly feel that the BBC is in fact in breach of the new Disability Discrimination Act by so doing.

I sincerely hope that you will take the above statement into account when you draw up the final format of the BBC Charter. With love, light and healing

Yours sincerely

Kai Kermani

CC: RNIB

*The Managing Director, BBC
Chief Sports Editor, BBC*