

BBC Charter Review
Department for Culture Media & Sport
2 -4 Cockspur Street
LONDON SW1A 5DH

28 May 2005

Dear Sirs

Your BBC, Your Say

Having seen that headline and read what was involved I am glad to respond to the invitation and ~~express~~ some of my views.

The programmes which get my "Thumbs up" are:

Casualty, Holby City (provided that arrogant, odious and supercilious character Connie Beacham is ditched very soon), Animal Park and all wildlife programmes, gardening programmes, University Challenge, Mastermind, Question Time, Documentaries such as Timewatch, Have I Got News for You, Strictly Come Dancing and its sequel, but not with Bruce Forsyth - he's past his sell by date!

also Athletics

For sport I watch Golf, Tennis and Rugby, but NOT Football of which there is more than enough already. I particularly object to awakening on a Sunday morning to be subjected to Match of the Day.

Football dominates our screens for an excessively long period of the year, far outdoing any other sport, so when, thankfully, eventually the season comes to an end PLEASE GIVE US COMPLETE FREEDOM FROM ANY MENTION OF FOOTBALL FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

There have been some good dramas, such as Monarch of the Glen, but really good comedy is very sparse, and most seem to depend on smut and offensive material: My Family is one of the exceptions. Little Britain is quite good, but I was disgusted when Walliams vomited over everyone.

How we miss the very funny comedies like Keeping up Appearances, One Foot in the Grave, Waiting for God, and that ilk.

Morecambe and Wise and the Two Ronnies have never been matched for good clean humour.

My biggest "Thumbs Down goes to the Weakest Link; Anne Robinson seems to relish in humiliating the contestants, which makes for uncomfortable viewing.

The news programmes can be a bit biased and unbalanced at times but my main annoyance is with the ghastly background noise - it certainly cannot be called music, and starts with a drum beat, following the announcement of "headlines or coming up", then there is percussive noise which ends with another louder beat and more noise, before returning to the presenter.

Another annoying noise comes between items of news - it consists of percussion accompanied by figures going backwards usually from 30 to zero when the programme ~~connects~~ again..

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These irksome noises should be unnecessary - certainly ITV do not use them ; and one benefit of the strike was the absence of such annoyance!

Natasha and Dermot have a most irritating habit on Breakfast News, which is their repeatedly saying "good morning" to each and every one of their co-presenters on introducing them to give the news, weather, or sport etc, regardless of the fact that they have already greeted them earlier.

Declan Curry also says "good morning Natasha good morning Dermot" every time he comes on screen.

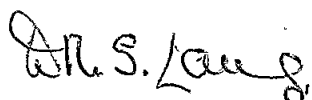
They would appear to be the only ones to make such a meal of it and it sounds rather ridiculous!

I am so sorry that "Breakfast with Frost" is ending, and hope that its successor will be equally watchable.

The set used for that programme was very attractive with the background of flowers, in contrast to the daytime weekly programme which with its walls covered in red squares looks more like a hospital corridor or a public lavatory!

I hope these comments will be noted and be of use. It certainly has been an opportunity to voice them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D.M.S. Lang'.

(Mrs) D.M.S.Lang