

20th May, 2005

BBC Charter Review,  
Department for Culture,  
Media & Sport,  
2-4 Cockspur Street,  
London.  
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sirs,

The Department has asked for comments on how the BBC is run. Here are my views.

1. Why does the BBC have two or three presenters on the Breakfast programme at 0600 when one should suffice, as on the BBC News at 2200? That is a waste of licence-payers' money.

2. Some programmes on BBC1 are preceded by two men performing cartwheels, or two boys skate-boarding, or some six people in red slowly moving their arms. The first two are childish, while the third is more appropriate to S.E.Asia. All three should be replaced by scenes extolling the beauties of Britain such as the Lake District, Cotswolds or Yorkshire Dales.

3. The stock market indices shown on the World Business Report at 0530 take up less than 30% of the television screen. They would be easier to read if they were allowed to occupy the whole screen without the presenter beside them. The same programme gives the exchange rates between the pound, dollar, and yen; it would be helpful to include the pound/euro as well.

4. There are far too many reports from the USA, many of a trivial nature, both on radio and television. Does this suggest too many reporters/correspondents there - another waste of licence-payers' money? On the other hand, there are few reports from Canada, Australia and many other countries which would be of interest.

5. Many people are disenchanted with all politicians, as shown in the recent general election, so the number of appearances of Ministers, M.P.s and political commentators on radio and television should be drastically curtailed.

6. The standards of the BBC have fallen over recent years, as shown by the increase in scenes of a sexual nature and the use of intemperate language. The BBC should be encouraged to revert to its higher standards of 40/50 years ago. As a start the words kids, guys and chair should be replaced by the correct children, people and chairman.

7. Over the years the BBC has had many admirable presenters, such as Angela Rippon, Sarah Cockburn and Tanya Beckett, who are a pleasure to see and hear, but recently some unattractive presenters have appeared - some are so unattractive that I switch off or turn to ITV. The BBC should consider the appeal of potential presenters when selecting them.

8. The BBC is known to be an equal opportunities employer, but why do BBC reporters/correspondents invariably choose a coloured person to interview on the streets? As coloured people in the U.K. form only some 6% of our total population, this selection is biased against the indigenous population.

9. Some comedies such as Yes Minister, 'Allo, 'Allo, Keeping up Appearances and the Carry On films remain very enjoyable, and repeat showings are always welcome. Repeats of two hilarious radio comedies of the 1940's, Its That Man Again (ITMA) and Life with the Lyons, would be much appreciated.

10. On 28th June, 2005 there is to be a Fleet Review off Southsea with a Son et Lumière display in the evening to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. It is hoped that the BBC will give full nationwide coverage to these historic events and not restrict coverage to only BBC South

Yours faithfully,

*R. A. Langley*