

8th. April 2005.

BBC Charter Review,  
Dept. of Culture, Media  
and Sport,  
2-4 Cockspur Street,  
London, SW1 Y 5DH.

Dear Sirs,

We appreciate being asked for our opinions of the running of the BBC and its future programmes, as advertised recently in the Press. Certain matters of concern go beyond the personal to the general, and I hear and read of items which are a great irritation and "turn-off" (literally) to almost all those who discuss these points.

The first is "background noise" to almost every programme either on TV or radio stations, This is annoying and self-defeating to any broadcast. It is beyond description and apparently also beyond the BBC's comprehension. It should be noted that many "phone-in" radio presenters have to ask callers to turn off their background music so that a proper conversation can be carried out, otherwise they risk being cut off, as neither can understand each other. Q.E.D.!

Some of the background noise is just that, a repetitive drumming or thumping sound. But much is so-called "music", also of a repetitive nature. This overlays all other sounds, speech or pure visual matters. This is not only intensely irritating but blurs and interferes with broadcast words or sounds to the extent of their being incomprehensible. Complaints of this score are widespread.

I believe it possible that there is some collusion between those behind these programmes and those who provide such background noises, and this needs investigating.

My final point is another matter of general irritation, as most viewers and listeners would agree. That is the constant "trailers" for future offerings, sometimes well ahead of the present time, but others only an hour or so away (such as daily plugs for The Archers). Most of these pass completely un-recorded as reminders and are just another annoyance to the public. They need eliminating too.

I trust you will take careful note of my comments and try to see that they are taken seriously by the BBC, as I assure you they are almost universal.

Yours faithfully



Patrick O'Keefe