

20 (Tuesday) 05  
5 April

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

To whom it may concern:

This is what I think – the quality of BBC programmes has worsened over the last few years. When I watch my television alone I often think how uncomfortable and embarrassed I would be if there was anyone else in the room, and that is the good times.

Take this evening for example. In the listings magazine I used for BBC1 (from the Saturday Times) there are words like 'vampiric leanings', 'violent history' and male 'prostitutes'. On BBC2 we have 'torture'. There is also on BBC2 'Dick and Dan's Ask the Family'. Now that is torture. I watched a little bit the night it started and was quite appalled by it. Perhaps the former format was felt to be little too straight-laced for today's audience, but in the light of comments around about falling standards surely someone could have come up with something less horrible. I happened to see the observation round with the ladies and their trays of items to be remembered. It was quite disgraceful and of immense bad taste.

I have also noted

- i The more the public have access to programme schedules the more self-advertisements there are between programmes it seems.
- ii The more recording devices around the more repeats, when someone misses a programme they tape it or whatever. Now we even have repeats on the same day.

I do hope that none of my licence money is going to fund BBC3 and BBC4. Although they might be on Freeview not everyone has that. Also the prospect of going over to a digital system will not suit everyone. The is the small question of being able to afford all these changes. So if the BBC could bear this in mind and resist draconian measures like making us all conform whether we like it or not, that would be lovely.

So, please could the schedulers/programme makers/programme commissioners or whatever they are technically called bear in mind that there is an audience out there with brains and we do not want the equivalent of a low tabloid, more of a broadsheet. There are some good, interesting, entertaining programmes – more of those please and on ay prime time.

Thank you.

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Miss F M Page