

FRANCIS C. PALMER

17th May 2005

BBC Charter Review,
Department of Culture, Media & Sport,
Cockspur Street,
LONDON.SW1Y 5DH.

Dear Sirs,

I am not too sure about which one is invited to comment but I give below my views on certain aspects with reasons.

1. Ensure there is just one reader of the news and possibly other programs.

One sits looking gormless whilst the other person reads. I have timed their contribution over many half hour programs. Only occasionally one of them exceeds five minutes talking, the rest of the time is taken up by specialist reporters. This would probably save thousands of pounds annually.

2. Stop putting on music whilst one is speaking. Sports programs do this almost all the time.

As a child I was always taught that it is rude to talk whilst others are speaking. Now you not only play distracting music but sometimes use vocal 'music'.

3. Use an oscilloscope when testing applicants for announcing.

When that screaming woman on BBC 24 gives the financial news I have to switch the sound off. Also that screaming girl that was given an unnecessary job when the lottery was drawn.

4. Stop engaging people who cannot speak English properly.

Letting sports personalities give many performances, one in particular is always 'finking fings'. This is disgraceful.

5. Return BBC2 to how it started: a culture channel.

The worst swearing always seems to be more prevalent on BBC2. And other programs that encourage rudeness. I know they seem to be popular but there is no need to exploit it.

6. Put more sport that is 'sporting'.

Football is no longer a sport; it is big business paying players excessive wages. Almost all the top players collect red cards and their 'dirty deeds' get 'brownie points'.

Give more time to SPORT. Admitted, golf gets good coverage but give bowls and other games that are played in a sporting fashion more time.

7. Cut out those infantile gimmicks on Working Lunch.

This is an excellent program on serious subjects but is spoilt on so many occasions.

Finally, I notice that your department includes *culture*. Please let us see more evidence of it. We all know that this once great country of ours is changing; please try not to accelerate its downfall.

Yours sincerely,

