

as from

31 May 2005

BBC Charter Review
 Dept for Media, Culture + Sport
 2-4 Cockspur St
 SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sir

I hope this contribution, which refers to BBC1 and BBC2, is in time.

The BBC's failings include:

- a. Failing to answer correspondence.
- b. Failing to repeat certain programmes made especially for TV, ^{while} ~~which~~ films originally produced for the cinema - including some of ^{deplorably} low quality - are repeated ad nauseam. Programmes that have never been repeated include three plays starring John Gielgud, a series about George IV, a series about the pharaohs and a series called "The Other One" with Richard Briers and Michael Gambon. See also c.
- c. Failing to show an adequate amount of opera, ballet and full-length (ie the whole play shown on a single evening) drama. The few productions that are shown are never repeated.
- d. Failing to adhere to the published programme, which should be seen as a sort of contract between the BBC and the licence-payer. Programmes are altered with inadequate reason (ie reasons other than the death of the monarch or the outbreak of war). How many theatres, cinemas and concert halls changed their programmes at short notice when Mao Tse Tung died? Programmes are allowed to overrun; you wait an hour after the scheduled finish for the snotter to end only to find the next programme has been cancelled. No apology is offered. Much more time should be allowed for snotter etc; if it ends early, either shut down the service until the next scheduled programme or show the potter's wheel or something similar.
- e. Failing to maintain previous standards in respect of key sporting events. When did BBC TV last show Test matches and other professional cricket, or the Oxford v. Cambridge rugby match, for example?
- f. Failing to provide an request audience figures for specific programmes.
- g. Showing trailers between programmes - sometimes as many as four - including when programmes are running late. If we must have trailers there should be a specific programme for them that we could choose whether to watch or avoid.
- h. Sometimes failing to show complete weather forecasts, presumably because punctuality has suddenly become important.

Yours truly
 C. J. F. Pavey