

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

Dear Sir,

10th March '05

In the Daily Mail you have published a request for the views of the public on the BBC programmes.

First, and the most irritating aspect of the output is the way the programmer or managers consistently refuse to acknowledge the outcry from the public to reduce the level of background music which accompanies many productions. I am in my seventies and I have lost count of the number of times this vexed subject keeps cropping up.

Second, why are we subjected to so many repeats and invariably of the same film year after year. The BBC are the proven masters of costume drama and have, in past years delighted viewers with these productions. If they must put on repeats what is to stop some of these being re-issued. There are so many it is difficult to name, but "Upstairs Downstairs" springs to mind as does "Foresyth Saga" Morecombe & Wise, The Two Ronnies are also shows which do not date.

Three. Why should sport take precedence over already announced programmes. There are many viewers who find this practice irritating in the extreme. Surely the sport in question could be recorded and shown at a later date. The advance in technology makes this easy.

Political interference in the news programmes should be banned. I do not believe I am the only viewer who has noticed the distinct bias to Labour that exists. Our news teams are the best in the world and should be allowed to function without interference. I know during the Falklands war the news was edited but that is at least, understandable. Every day reporting however, is another matter.

Is there any way the poliferation of bad language can be curtailed. Personally, I find the F word (which is used extensively) unnecessary, and particularly unpleasant when used by women. I was taught it was only illitrates who could not express themselves who resorted to that sort of language. Sadly, it would appear our script writers and authors appear to have followed this trend.

I have no doubt, this last paragraph will be viewed with some amusement by the younger members of the staff at the BBC. I can imagine they will write me off as 'deluded' or worse. It does not alter the fact that many of my generation are of like mind, and the corporation should be catering to the needs of all sections of the public, not the youth culture which, incidentally I believe has much to answer for as regards childrens programmes which are supposed to be entertainment. Children DO copy what they see on the TV, no matter what so called 'experts say. Has anyone listened to the presenters?. Now listen to children in the street. Both seem to be unable to talk unless unless they are shouting.

The results of this exercise will be very interesting!
Yours faithfully.

(John Quinn)

