

Department for Culture, Media and Sport	
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Treat Official (TOS) Correspondence	
Deadline: 24/5/05	(Tick)
Action	Treat Official Reply <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BPD	Treat As Appropriate <input type="checkbox"/>
	For information only <input type="checkbox"/>
PCU REF:	12597

MM.

Mark Tann

TESSA Jowell MP
DCMS
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1V-5DH

14/4/05

Dear Tessa,

I am writing to you with regards to the 'BBC Charter Review - Green Paper' that you sent to me - letter dated 11th April - your reference 10990.

This is my response in relation to this consultation which I hope will be fed into your white paper and so forth. I have looked at the questions one by one in order they are set out and my response to these are as follows:-

- 1) I would agree to the effect that it is helpful to define the BBC's purpose in this way.
in relation to education and learning - the BBC should make it easier for people who are in prison to make use of the education zone OUL learning zone by making it easier to
A) provide all establishments with the address to allow prisoners to write for a programming schedule for the learning zone and B) working with the offenders - Skills Unit at the education department to help educate and improve prisoners skills, as they can do distance learning, they should be able to enhance their skills through the format of the BBC learning zone.

The licence fee, while it is good to use it for use as venture capital for creativity, it must not be used to create programmes that are designed to cause gratuitous offence like that of what was seen broadcast - 'Jerry Springer the opera'

- 2) are these the right purposes? - yes, indeed I believe they are.

- 3) these are I believe the right characteristics, - they

also need to be sensitive to both religious & ethnic group

4) I do agree that the BBC should be at the forefront of developments in technology, inc digital television
(the BBC should - through its digital platform - TV/web and working with the Government work towards developments in allowing people/viewers to be able to use these services to vote for their candidates / political parties from the comfort of their home.

5) I am in favour of the proposal for a further review of alternative funding methods before the end of the next Charter period due to the run up to the Switchover.

6) yes - the licence fee is a problem for people who are on benefit, disabled in whatever capacity or just generally on benefit
The DMS should help those on benefits to also get a free TV licence in the same way that over 75's do. - and if the benefits office / Job Centre were aware and it was on record, the licence fee could then only be pursued if the person who was on benefit was financially able to pay because they were better off ~~now~~ they in the job they had been employed at, - the Job Centre / Benefits office who pay out the £110's would be legally obliged to notify licence fee enforcement when they were off benefits and into work benefit claimants - while they are on benefits should not have to pay for a licence they can ill afford.
I also object to it being wasted on vile programmes such as Jerry Springer the opera)

→ yes it seems clear enough to me
8) Simple answer - yes, though in the case of the "Jerry Springer the Opera" - it clearly did not take account of the opinions and objections raised by those who were deeply offended by the actions of the BBC in its screenings of it, 1500 took to the streets in protest and its for the very reason that the BBC seemed not to care about offending a large section of society - who are Christians and BBC viewers have lost trust in the BBC as they feel that no-one in the BBC is in danger of being held accountable, this incidence alone the BBC Governors must be held accountable for screenings this



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

7th April 2005

Mark Tann Esq
5 Love Lane
Wakefield
WF2 9AG

Dear Mr Tann,

Thank you for your letter to Michael Howard and the comments you made. He has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

It was kind of you to write and your further comments will be carefully considered.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Philps'.

Ian Philps
Office of the Leader of the Opposition

and Since the issue of both Trust and accountability is now a problem many Christians see that the only way they can hold the BBC & its governors to account is now by way of prosecution; - There should be an easier way for the BBC to take on board opinions and act on them, there must be a better and simpler way to hold the BBC to account. to measure - respond to public opinion.

9) Certainly there should be a ratings programme
Gauging audience opinions about BBC's performance, impact of programming.

Research must be accompanied by open consultation of viewers & listeners.

I don't think it would be helpful for the Trust to meet in public but webcasting their meetings / AGMs etc would be a positive step
~~Meetings~~ Meetings (minutes) results of research should be made available to download from the web; and via the post as per requested

10) The BBC should take all complaints seriously and like in the case I mentioned the Trust should listen to complaints made and act appropriately; they must hold the BBC as a whole accountable by taking action on any programme that may be excessively insensitive and causing gratuitous offence

11) The Trust needs to appoint 12 members for fairness and individual responsibility

12) The skills and expertise should cover
1) Someone to represent the multi-faith aspect (programmes need to be sensitive to all the faiths) & so programmes should be intended to cause gram offence to any community
2) Someone to represent the DCMS
3) Someone to represent ofcom
4) Education Adult & childrens Quality programmes

13) as mentioned the religious community should be listened to and there should be a Trust member to represent this group

The Lord Ashbourne
Colebrook Barn, East Harting Farm
PETERSFIELD
GU31 5LU

April 2005

Dear Friend in Jesus Christ,

BLASPHEMOUS 'JERRY SPRINGER - THE OPERA' ON BBC2

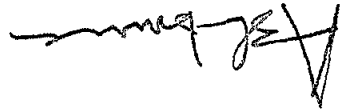
On Saturday 8th January, BBC2 screened "Jerry Springer the Opera", which they recorded last December in London's Cambridge Theatre. I cannot bring myself to describe the level of filth and blasphemy which was in it. A more contemptible and filthy mockery of our Lord and Saviour has never been staged in a West End theatre, let alone broadcast on television. I am almost ashamed to be British. Who would blame our holy God if He were to bring judgment on our nation for allowing such a thing to be broadcast? What can individual Christians do against this tide of evil?

One thing we can do is pray for Him to have mercy. We need to stand in the gap in prayer and intercession. Another is to take the trouble to witness against such an outrage. It was unprecedented for so many people to protest to the BBC and Ofcom. In addition, the Lord brought 1,500 believers out onto the streets outside BBC premises that night for a prayer vigil called by Christian Voice. After 'Springer' was shown, Christian Voice held evening vigils of witness at the Cambridge Theatre until the show closed on 19th February. I praise God for all who took the trouble to stand up for Jesus. However, one other thing we must do, if we want to prevent anything like this happening again, is to bring those responsible to court. That takes courage and money, but I believe the Lord will supply both.

Stephen Green, National Director of Christian Voice, intends to bring a private prosecution against those responsible both for the play and the BBC. I am convinced he is right to take this action, but he needs our help in prayer, both for wisdom and for the Lord to provide the financial resources. Christian Voice is doing a vital work today, encouraging Christians to pray and witness effectively, and holding up the name of Jesus Christ at a time when the enemy really is coming in like a flood. I have been honoured to be patron since this ministry began over ten years ago. In that time I have seen the Lord graciously using Christian Voice, if nothing else, to lay down the standard of righteousness in our nation like the plumbline of Amos.

May we dare to pray with what has happened and is going to happen over Jerry Springer the Opera, that the tide is beginning to turn, and that Christians are beginning to stand up and be counted? I am sure God will bless us with success as we do so. I hope Stephen will have your prayerful support, and I commend his appeal to you.

Yours in His service,



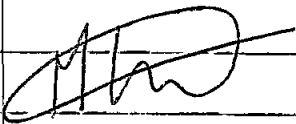
The Lord Ashbourne
(Patron, Christian Voice)

- 14) I not only think it would work, but I would like to see 'a window of creative competition' be made to work!
- 15) I think that for the time being the 10% quota is sufficient and it should remain voluntary at least for now.
- 16) Yes the BBC should be able to propose changes to its range of services over the course of the next 10 years subject to a public service test
- 17) Yes - I agree with these proposals, but why only through the internet - the 'Creative Archive' should be able to be accessed through Sky platform for instance if this could be done, it could only be done through our TV, if and when we can access the internet through the TV set linked up to the BBC/Sky platforms
- 18) It should remain as strict as it can be! If the BBC allowed ads to be carried then this could become less strict, magazines should be linked to BBC content and programmes thereof.
- 19) I believe the existing fair trading commitment is a useful addition to the arrangements for regulating the BBC's commercial services. And I would not wish to change this from its present format.
- 20) I don't think the funds from the licence fee would go very far if it were stretched to others like Channel 4 for example even though this would show fairness - I think the BBC and others who

are struggling with findings should get their revenue through platforms such as the 'Sky package' they have the option to choose what they pay for as part of a 'package' - either through sky platform or through digital replacement of the analogue aerial. Viewers don't like paying separate fees for this nearly all houses have a TV so this would be best way to get revenue, perhaps even offered as a deal eg 'BBC news & education' package like the sky 'sports package' for instance.

once the switchover takes place and the nation is a digital nation the BBC should not charge a separate fee for its 'services' but get that through advertising and through package deals on the sky and other platforms

Yours sincerely,



Mark Tann