

From: Mr F. Thompson,

To: BBC Charter Review, Dept for Culture, Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH.

Thank you for inviting us to have our say.

The BBC is not worth the license fee (which incidentally I *now* don't pay, being in my 90's). It cannot even keep to the advertised programmes, which very often overrun. But does it quickly press on with the next programme for which people are waiting? No, it advertises at length later programmes, next day's programmes, those for next week and next month... so that the awaited programme begins very late, and anybody recording it misses part. Railways are subject to fines for not keeping to schedule.

Since the BBC does so much advertising, *given so many competitors,* there should not be a ~~live~~ license fee. Let it take its chance with other channels. Very rarely is there a good TV programme - Soaps. Repeats, and old films being the usual diet.

Today, 6th May 2005, getting up at my normal time of 6.30 am, I switched on the kitchen TV to get the figures for the General Election - the result I could guess - I just wanted the figures for the main parties. BBC 1 came on ~~as~~ *with* some *cheering* *as a* recorded result was played of some election announced during the night, Party Leaders made speeches I could have written myself, and the TV presenters waffled, but no figures. I lost count of the number of times they referred to a 'Historic (?) Victory', reflecting the well-known bias of the BBC. I switched to Channel 3, and there were the figures I wanted, shown all the time in a corner of the screen.

The staff cuts announced are not severe enough. The overblown Corporation is too big. Riddled with bias and nepotism, is there any justification for its existence? Or should it be confined to Radio?

My apologies for bad typing!

Fred Thompson

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