

To: BBC Charter Review

- Dept of Culture, Media & Sport
- 2-4 Cockspur Street
- London SW1Y 5DH

24.3.05

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your BBC, Your Say

As a BBC licence payer and supporter over many years I wish to point out what I regard as a current failing as far as the availability of "Freeview" is concerned.

You have used (and are still using) hundreds of hours of airtime in persuading us to purchase a "box" to enable us to receive several extra channels. For quite a long while I have telephoned your helpline, only to be told by a mechanical voice that my postcode (CV8) doesn't even qualify. I can't even get through to a human being to ask how many more years I have got to wait, or if there is a timetable in existence to end this state of affairs. This I regard as a failure of your current Royal Charter as you are yet to "serve^{all} the public well". If your plans regarding Freeview cannot be solved before the end of 2006, may I suggest a timetable of availability is incorporated into the new Royal Charter so that we can all benefit from these extra channels as we all pay the same licence fee. You have asked me in your advertisement to - Make sure you have your say.

Notwithstanding my comments I still think the BBC runs the world's finest television service, and would suggest these points to consider for the new Charter:

(PTO)

- Abandon your mania for viewing figures to compare against your competitors, you have nothing to prove.
- Expand on what you do best, ie, children's programmes, drama, news, documentaries, music to all tastes, sports programmes, etc.
- Don't, when negotiating, be blackmailed into paying over the odds for major events, when they are often not worth it.
- Allocate more air time for the regional news "where you are". You have slots where the local news, weather, road works, traffic problems, airport delays, etc, are all gabbled out in two minutes flat, before you "return to Natasha and Dermot" for quite often trivial items of news. These items are often on the screen all at the same time! A small map showing traffic problems is much easier to digest than a few words across the bottom of the screen; there is room for massive improvement here.

I do thank you very much for allowing me to "have my say on my BBC."

Yours faithfully,

R. B. Warwick (Mr)