

P Whitehead

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

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Dear Sir or Madam

In reply to the "Your BBC, Your Say" advertisement, here are my suggestions:

1. BBCi should have *live up-to-date* Programme Guides. I have often found that their programme names/times do not correspond to what is actually showing on TV, especially if there is a State Funeral or other big event.
2. Due to the important role TV has in most people's lives, I believe the BBC should continue to: *inform, educate, and entertain*. The Media may be taking over the role that Religion used to have, in guiding the public's views, and setting standards regarding civil duties and moral codes?
3. Dangerous programme content should be vetted. Although entertaining, it is well known that brainwashing/hypnotism/ghosts/black magic/etc are unknown forces that should be respected.
4. Please tell the BBC announcers not to shout! It usually means they are nervous, and is not pleasant to watch or listen to. Please ask them not to aggressively interrupt so much in News items. (Chat Shows are a different matter, where clever interview techniques can expose diverse opinions).
5. Please, please ask the BBC announcers not to divulge the plot or climax of any forthcoming programme. For example, I have heard announcements similar to this: "*Neighbours is next, where Freddy gets killed*". Why cannot they say instead, for example, "*Neighbours is next. Who will be in danger?*"
6. The BBC should not cancel regular soaps for lengthy sporting events. Many viewers (especially the housebound) get to rely on their favourite daily programmes, which become an important part of their routine and enhance their lives, and can even become a companionable substitute for absent-family.
7. Garden programmes. These are mostly commercially biased, sadly based on concreting gardens/ paints/lethal chemicals and other Garden Centre purchases. Can the BBC please be more environmentally aware and encourage natural or wildlife gardens, less tidiness, less destruction of wildlife habitats, less chopping down of trees? An Expert such as Prof Chris Baines could advise? Also there is a new Bumblebee ID book, which could inspire a fresh type of garden programme?

Yours faithfully

P. Whitehead.

Types of programmes I like:

News & Weather  
History  
Soaps, e.g. "Neighbours"  
Dramas, e.g. "The Bill"  
Wildlife, e.g. Amazon & Bill Oddie  
Natural World  
Pets/animals  
Films  
Interesting  
Exciting  
Environmental, e.g. "Country File"  
Local, e.g. "Country Ways"  
Educational  
Travel  
Home, e.g. "Location, Location, Location"  
Archaeological, e.g. "Time Team"  
Informative  
Intellectual  
Investigative e.g. "Tonight with Trevor McDonald"  
Musical Talent shows e.g. "Strictly Dance Fever"  
Hobbies/fashion etc  
Art  
General  
State Occasions  
Personal finance  
Comedy  
Science  
Personal stories

Types of programmes I dislike:

All sports programmes!

Note for the BBC:

1. With so much new technology descending on the world, can we have a programme to inform & educate us on these developments and on IT?

~~2. "The Bill" is becoming too *slow* and *predictable*. The stories do not seem to be structured like all good tales, with an exciting climax where, hopefully, the Baddies get caught! (Bring back the "Santini" scriptwriters, who knew how to keep us on the edge of our seats!).~~