



BBC Charter Review

YOUR
BBC
YOU'VE
SPOKEN

News on decisions about the BBC's future

The BBC's activities are currently governed by a Royal Charter – a document that shapes the BBC, setting out what it is for, what it does and how it does it. Since 1927, a review has been carried out every 10 years or so to see if the BBC is still serving the public well and to consider its future.

This leaflet highlights the plans for the BBC over the next 10 years, which are set out in detail in the Government's White Paper, *A public service for all: the BBC in the digital age*, published on 14 March 2006.

A new way of running the BBC

The BBC Board of Governors will be replaced by a new BBC Trust – responsible for overseeing the BBC and representing your interests more clearly – and an Executive Board, which will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the BBC and will be accountable to the Trust.

The new system will be more transparent, independent of Government and will have the interests of licence fee payers at its heart. This will involve, amongst other things, more research to gain viewers' opinions on changes to services and the creation of a clear complaints system.

The BBC's public purposes

Providing the best programmes and delivering the best services for licence fee payers will remain central to everything the BBC does. But to help make it clearer what licence fee payers are getting for their money, the BBC will have five core purposes:

- Sustaining citizenship and civil society
- Promoting education and learning
- Stimulating creativity and cultural excellence
- Reflecting the UK's nations, regions and communities
- Bringing the world to the UK and the UK to the world

Within the new purposes, entertainment will remain a vital part of the BBC's mission.

There will also be one 'special' purpose for the BBC: 'Building Digital Britain'. This purpose will cover the BBC's role in switching the UK to digital-only TV. Digital switchover will take place from 2008 to 2012. It will also give it a special responsibility to act as a 'trusted guide', bringing the benefits of new technologies to new audiences and making sure no one is left behind.

As well as a strong BBC, we want to see a vibrant and dynamic commercial TV and radio production sector. We will bring in new checks and balances to ensure that the presence of the BBC allows other organisations to flourish as well.

Every BBC service, such as BBC ONE or Radio 2, will have a special Service Licence which sets out what it is supposed to do. Licence fee payers will be consulted on what the licences contain.

Independence and funding

Two issues in which the public have been particularly interested are independence and funding. The BBC will continue to be governed by a Royal Charter lasting 10 years, ensuring it will remain strong and independent of Government.

The licence fee will continue to be the main source of funding for the BBC until the end of the next Charter. The licence fee level, beyond April 2007, has not yet been set, but will be announced later this year.

How to contact us

For more information on the White Paper and draft Charter and Agreement, visit our website: www.bbccharterreview.org.uk or contact: BBC Charter Review Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH, Telephone 0207 211 6200.

If you want to comment on any of these plans, please write to us at the address above or email us at: bbccharterreview@culture.gsi.gov.uk by Friday 28 April 2006.



**Department for Culture,
Media and Sport**

2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
PP 876 March 2006