

## **Independent Panel on Charter Review**

**Seminar: Representation of Nations, Regions and Communities**

- **PAPER: Comments on Representation from Public Consultation held between December 03 and March 04**

## CHARTER REVIEW CONSULTATION EXERCISE:

### ISSUES LIST

A large number of respondents commented on representation issues in their responses. The following is a summary of the points that were made (and by whom):

Document Title	Comment
4 Children (formerly Kids' Clubs Network)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publicly funded, publicly accountable BBC promotes social inclusion, community cohesion and participatory democracy.</li> <li>- BBC uniquely placed to represent all regions of the country and a diverse range of interests and communities.</li> <li>- Value the scheduling of educational and entertaining programmes that inform and inspire children and young people.</li> <li>- BBC must remain up to pace with the evolving nature of multi-cultural, multi-ethnic Britain if it is to continue to be relevant to the whole of society.</li> </ul>
ACACIA Productions Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggest more dramas for children to reflect the cultural diversity of Britain and the world today.</li> <li>- BBC World Service listened to by many at home, &amp; offers a PSB diet for listeners, including fair mix of programming.</li> </ul>
Alliance of Black Media Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current BBC commissioning, production and Green-lighting structure is unrepresentative and disproportionately racially biased or 'situationally' racist.</li> <li>- Propose that a new departmental headship be created – Director of Black Mainstream programming, with executive powers equal to those of the genre heads of department.</li> </ul>
Archbishops Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC should continue to offer programmes that reflect the fundamentally Christian character and history of our nation, including in regional and local contexts</li> </ul>
Arts Council of Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Output from the BBC's national services to reflect the diversity of the regions across the country.</li> </ul>
BECTU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Want increased attention to programme production in the nations and regions.</li> </ul>
Blackburn and Districts Trade Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of Industrial Relations matters too superficial.</li> <li>- No programme we are aware of that deals with employment issues from the point of views of employees</li> </ul>
bmetvfm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rich culture, vision and values not being shared and ethnic minority communities are being denied the socio-economic security resulting from fair deal in broadcasting.</li> <li>- The BBC must broadcasts hopes and aspirations of the many faces of Britain.</li> <li>- Cultural cross-over programmes do not celebrate diversity but tried to confuse it. BBC should put its traditional values within a new inclusive agenda.</li> <li>- BBC failed in terms of fair portrayal of issues on screen and the still stereotype approach and assumptions made by some broadcasters in the handling of minority issues.</li> <li>- Avoid need for OFCOM to intervene in the future in</li> </ul>

	terms of fair access and fair portrayal for minorities programmes and peoples.
British Academy of Composers and Songwriters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC only place where serious "local" provision is able to take place in radio and television.</li> <li>- BBC should be encouraged to maintain and strengthen its regional production centres.</li> <li>- BBC should be champion of homegrown music of all genres.</li> </ul>
British Humanist Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC, with traditional commitment to religious broadcasting, fails completely to live up to this requirement and - despite wording of the new Communications Act - shows little or no sign of changing</li> </ul>
British Music Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC must continue to support and provide opportunities for new creative talent.</li> <li>- More radio broadcasts of live musical performances.</li> <li>- More Focus on a wider, more eclectic spectrum of music genres on television for diverse tastes and ages;</li> <li>- Recognise the BBC's active commitment to the community, such as the regional tour buses reaching out to deprived communities,</li> <li>- Like to see community programming given the opportunity to be introduced into the mainstream.</li> </ul>
Broadcast Journalism Training Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Value contribution BBC has made in range of equality issues, including progress in addressing gender and ethnic balances within corporation. Recognise that this is well-reflected in recruitment patterns.</li> <li>- BJTC also trying to address these issues, and appreciates the support and guidance it received from the BBC.</li> </ul>
Channel 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Role and responsibility in providing programmes that reflect the concerns of the UK's nations and regions, and which allow regional perspectives to be reflected to a UK-wide audience.</li> <li>- Needs to sustain production capacity throughout the nations and regions.</li> <li>- May be appropriate to increase the BBC's targets for regional production and programming.</li> <li>- More partner relationships in areas such as the provision of community based television and radio,</li> </ul>
Churches' Media Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Religious broadcasting has a crucial role to play in breaking down barriers, building bridges, overcoming ignorance and prejudice, informing and educating.</li> <li>- Importance of religious broadcasting must increase greatly and quickly.</li> <li>- Religious topics treated more fully in the news, current affairs and documentary programming.</li> <li>- BBC must help its audience understand the diversity and power of religious belief today.</li> <li>- Christians &amp; other faith communities felt communities have been subjected to a poor quality of journalism and insensitivity to their feelings.</li> </ul>
Commonwealth Broadcasting Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional organisation of the BBC very helpful to local communities.</li> <li>- Network of local radios give a sense of identity to a</li> </ul>

	<p>community, and the regional TV output an essential aspect of local life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minority language provision good, and will need to develop further as the population alters</li> </ul>
CRCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Important BBC Radio maintain regional and local presence &amp; different content to that provided by the commercially funded sector.</li> <li>- Local information &amp; news and involvement in local cultural affairs should be top of provisions by local and regional BBC services.</li> <li>- Further investment by the BBC in community broadcasting runs counter to Government plans to encourage the growth of community radio.</li> <li>- Community radio should be funded by a subvention from the licence fee.</li> </ul>
DGGB TV Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In diverse national culture, BBC is a vital common meeting-point.</li> <li>- Acts as a vehicle for the expression of shared values, common experience &amp; national identity.</li> <li>- Reduction in regional TV production and would see this trend reversed.</li> </ul>
EM Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More commitment to development of talent and opportunity across all communities</li> </ul>
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional programme production not be confined to news and current affairs, include drama and comedy for example.</li> <li>- BBC falls short of meeting commitments in a number of regions, but particularly in Northern Ireland.</li> <li>- BBC should be willing to de-centralise itself away from London.</li> <li>- Children's programming on BBC 7 have brought new and growing audience of children. If the BBC and others cherry-picked genres rather than providing programming for all, would exclude minorities, economic and geographically-difficult viewers in the future digital world (which not everyone will join).</li> </ul>
European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC should rather aim to conserve and develop the distinctive cultures of the UK.</li> <li>- BBC should address the problem of stereotyping and marginalisation of the indigenous minority language communities.</li> <li>- BBC should encourage the use of proper names, signage and other nomenclature in the indigenous minority languages as a matter of course.</li> </ul>
Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The BBC should be primarily a quality producer/broadcaster of British content: "telling the British about themselves."</li> </ul>
Gaelic Development Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC's commitment to Gaelic significant and, for sustainable future for Gaelic, remains crucial.</li> <li>- Consolidation and extension of existing BBC commitments, particularly Gaelic-medium radio, would contribute to the satisfaction of the UK's international commitments.</li> </ul>

Gaelic Media Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC's public service remit could be discharged in the digital age through the provision of a strong, guaranteed contribution to a dedicated Gaelic digital television channel, underpinned by a clear allocation of licence fee funding, working in partnership with existing BBC Gaelic radio and on-line services.</li> <li>- BBC's continuing commitment to Gaelic language broadcasting should be acknowledged in new Charter</li> <li>- BBC's Charter remit to serve and represent the diversity of cultural and linguistic influences which enrich the life of the nation continues to be of critical importance to minorities.</li> </ul>
Help the Aged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Older people rely heavily on local media to receive information, and place trust in these more local sources compared with national broadcast or print media. BBC has a great responsibility to ensure that its programming reflects this trust and engages this audience. ·</li> <li>- Lack of serious programming on older people's issues, and any such programmes marginalised by programme scheduling.</li> <li>- Lack of exposure of local and national older people's issues on local media.</li> </ul>
Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC satisfies its regional constituencies to much the same degree that it satisfies its national constituency.</li> </ul>
Incorporated Society of Musicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Able to provide programmes for minority audiences because free from commercial pressures</li> </ul>
ITFC CONFIDENTIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC should do more to promote subtitling in particular and how to access it.</li> </ul>
Jerusalem Post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Issues about BBC representation of Israel particularly Orla Guerin's reporting and BBC Bias.</li> </ul>
Jerusalem Productions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Should set up a system of consultants that fairly represent the range of faiths and of sects.</li> <li>- Faith and spirituality should be explored across all BBC platforms. Worship programmes are essential.</li> <li>- Should broadcast programmes at regular times accessible to many.</li> </ul>
Jonathan Kaye- British Deaf Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BDA used donations to fund SIGNTv day of signed TV programmes. Could not BBC have offered to broadcast this experiment on BBC4?</li> <li>- Specifically targeted disability television programming is now virtually extinct except See Hear programme for the deaf community.</li> <li>- Disability rights legislation in UK history comes into force in October, yet BBC have done and are doing little, to help raise the public disability awareness necessary.</li> <li>- Urge Government to ensure the BBC has a duty to serve the disability community</li> </ul>
Leighton Andrews	<p>The development of BBC Wales needs consideration under a number of headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC Wales Governor, Broadcasting Council for Wales, News provision after devolution, News provision after devolution, Programme production, Reception,</li> </ul>

	transmission and digital issues, Archives, BBC Wales Commercial Services, Welsh language services including S4C
Liberal Democrats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metropolitan bias should be reduced.</li> <li>- Regionally produced programmes to be of the same standard as nationally produced programmes.</li> <li>- BBC to respond to the continuing development of devolution.</li> <li>- 3 distinct types of programming service which are required if the BBC is to reflect the needs of the diverse nations and regions of the UK: (1) Programmes made regionally not specific to that locality but where the best resources to make that programme are located, (2) Programming made at regional locations which reflect the locality and culture or news back to the wider UK, (3) Programming made at regional locations which are intended for that locality alone.</li> </ul>
Lisa Francis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC's role in fostering communities through services in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the English regions, minority services programming, including local radio was very good.</li> <li>- Radio Cymru is particularly important in serving Welsh speaking communities at a national level.</li> <li>- BBC's contributions to scale and range of services should, in turn, keep pace with growing demands placed on S4C</li> </ul>
Media Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Services to enable access for blind, partially-sighted, deaf and hard of hearing people must be put in.</li> <li>- BBC has unique potential to inspire social action and community involvement, to build strong communities, both locally, globally and communities of interest, and to encourage active citizenship</li> <li>- Develop partnership between the BBC and the Community Channel to give a UK-wide platform to the</li> <li>- BBC's community and regional programming</li> </ul>
mediawatch-uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC TV through national and regional programming reflects the nations and regions, but limited to early evening news and a weekly magazine programme. Much more could be done, eg, weekly 'roundup from the regions'.</li> <li>- Balance in programming not right nor is the national or regional diversity being properly reflected overall.</li> </ul>
Methodist Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christians and people of other faiths hope that quality, quantity and scheduling of religious programming will continue to improve.</li> <li>- Concerns that attention to religion within public service broadcasting should also include intelligent reporting of religion as news and current affairs and documentaries.</li> </ul>
Mike Hally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stronger, larger and enforceable commitment to de-centralised production is required in the Charter.</li> </ul>
Music Business Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Want community level programming having opportunity to be picked up and introduced to the mainstream, so mainstream can evolve to embrace more diverse influences</li> </ul>

Music Publisher's Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Music programming provides opportunity for reflecting cultural diversity; BBC broadcast broad range of both high profile and other local musical events, including festivals, concerts and other live performances.</li> <li>- Should continue to be the case as our culture becomes even more diverse in itself.</li> <li>- Radio 3 is ally of locally based music activities and all</li> <li>- BBC radio should be encouraged to reflect more events in the regions.</li> <li>- Current balance is about right in so far as programming of music is concerned.</li> <li>- Regional and community music programming is reflective of local cultural diversity but no room for complacency.</li> </ul>
Musicians Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC the only broadcaster that produces a diverse range of programmes aimed specifically at Nation and Regions.</li> <li>- Like to see more use of the BBC's own performing groups in such programmes, particularly the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and the Ulster Orchestra, though recognise that regional budgets constrain.</li> <li>- BBC Performing Groups have all appointed education officers who are engaged in series of initiatives designed to bring new audiences, from a range of diverse communities, to live music - has involved commissioning new music from a number of cultural groups not normally associated with western classical music (from the Chinese community in Manchester to the Somali community in Bethnal Green).</li> </ul>
National Consumer Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Like to see more regional activity and programmes.</li> </ul>
National Information and Learning Technologis Association & Association of colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessibility and equal opportunities issues vitally important to the education sector, and AoC NILTA is keen to work with the BBC to widen opportunities to reach all communities, including for example, teenage</li> <li>- Currently accessibility issues addressed through Radio 4 which does not have a high audience within this age range.</li> </ul>
National Secular Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does not reflect the large majority of people who do not have a religious belief.</li> </ul>
NUJ response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC should have stronger national and regional advisory bodies that have more power over the allocation of resources/</li> </ul>
Phillip O'Malley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional television programmes kept to daytime and weekend schedules.</li> <li>- Regional shows to be shown via BBCi interactive service so they can be seen by a wider audience.</li> </ul>
Royal National Institute for the Blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote sub-titling service through adverts.</li> </ul>
S.W. Regional Development Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional broadcasting - on radio and TV - can give impression of being a poor relation to London-based relatives.</li> <li>- Concern at how content of regional broadcasting appeals to the whole population - especially younger generation and minority communities.</li> </ul>

S4C response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benefit to Welsh-speaking viewers that BBC has made wide-ranging and long-term commitment to broadcasting through the medium of Welsh.</li> <li>- Over the past 50 years, the BBC has made invaluable contribution to the development of Wales's distinctive cultural and political identity.</li> <li>- BBC continues to play a vital role in the public life in Wales today.</li> <li>- One of the most valuable aspects of public service relates to commitment to programming that reflects lives of communities in different parts of the UK and which is produced within those communities.</li> <li>- To continue to play this role, needs to maintain and strengthen commitment to regional programming beyond news and current affairs.</li> </ul>
Scottish Consumer Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People from lower socio-economic groups felt less well served by the BBC.</li> </ul>
Scottish Parliament cross party group on the Scots Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC could adopt mission statement for Scots and the other indigenous languages of the UK.</li> <li>- BBC should absolutely abjure and renounce part of founding fathers' philosophy which envisaged the creation of a unitary British culture. Should aim to conserve and develop distinctive cultures of the UK.</li> <li>- Has duty to broadcast on radio and television both in the Scottish Language and on it.</li> <li>- Must recognise that role as educator through schools broadcasts and other ways can be extended to Scots (Principle 6) – would be very welcome.</li> <li>- Web space provided for Scots by BBC Northern Ireland should be extended to Scotland immediately.</li> </ul>
SMG response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC's national commissioning is London-centric and as such is unfair and irrelevant</li> </ul>
Soundscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional proportionality in independent sector is defined as 'Outside M25' - restricts voices and ideas being heard in BBC independent radio productions.</li> <li>- Recommend fairer distribution of licence fee made throughout the UK within the radio independent sector.</li> </ul>
Strategic Communications Committee- Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC has a major contribution to make in religious programming.</li> <li>- Like to see religious issues treated more fully in the news, current affairs and documentary programming.</li> <li>- Commend the BBC for increasing sensitivity to the multi-faith and multi-cultural nature of British society.</li> </ul>
Strategy & Technology Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Considerable increase recently in number of children educated through Gaelic - BBC's provision is helping restore status of language among young people.</li> <li>- Important that BBC reaches dispersed communities (see Comunn na Gaidhlig's submission).</li> </ul>
The Directors Guild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In diverse national culture, BBC is vital common meeting-point.</li> <li>- Acts as a vehicle for expression of shared values, common experience and national identity.</li> <li>- Regret steady reduction in regional TV production</li> </ul>

	(especially in drama) and would like to see trend reversed.
The Open University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Like to see greater emphasis on high quality, regional television broadcasting developed over next decade.</li> <li>- In terms of furthering educational aims of BBC, would welcome further increase in extent to which the BBC works with learning providers at regional level.</li> </ul>
Third World & Environment Broadcasting Project (3WE)	- New 'hierarchy of purposes', expressing will of parliament on behalf of the public, should be related to the Declaration and Action Plan of the World Summit on the Information Society, and other multilateral instruments to help strengthen legitimacy of BBC in pursuing its purpose
United Reform Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not convinced protected slots were best way of presenting religion.</li> <li>- Religion &amp; faith is part of everyday experience, and needs to be seen as such across spectrum genres.</li> <li>- BBC, because of size and integration, makes this possible.</li> </ul>
Voice of the Listener and Viewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC played important part in responding to needs of the constituent nations and regions of the UK from its earliest days.</li> <li>- More needs to be done to help the various parts and communities to learn from, and to understand each other.</li> <li>- BBC's role in promoting and reflecting regions and local communities, not least through local radio and specialist language services in Gaelic and Welsh will become more important as recently unified ITV seeks economies by reducing its regional production base and services.</li> <li>- BBC, because of its size, freedom from commercial pressure and range of services, has unique ability to reflect the different parts of the United Kingdom &amp; thereby to foster understanding and social cohesion.</li> </ul>
Women in Film and Television	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BBC should promote gender and cultural diversity on screen, in content and amongst employees.</li> <li>- BBC has made an effort to reflect Britain's changing culture in programming and employment policies. Must continue to do so.</li> <li>- BBC has taken its Equal Opps remit seriously. Equal Opps Department worked hard to ensure that the BBC strives for gender, and ethnic and disabled diversity in its programming and staffing policies.</li> </ul>