

CHARTER  
RENEWAL

CMS 38470

Subject: BBC Charter Renewal I listened with growing apprehension to your statement in the Commons today. Once again entertainment is written large in the proscribed future for the BBC. What the BBC really should be doing is to give citizens what other channels do not. Why is it not obligatory for the BBC to broadcast on TV and Radio all events which are supported and funded by the Arts Council and similar bodies. Why should someone who lives say 150 miles from a venue such as Covent Garden, the National Theatre, The British Museum, Birmingham Repetory, Edinburgh Festival not be able to enjoy events at these. Most are supported to some degree by public money coming from tax payers or council tax. On Radio, high quality lectures are a rarity - it all is popular stuff- are we afraid of allowing thinking people to participate in real culture and learning. Even News Bulletins now bring material of no general interest - details of murders, robberies etc are personal tragedies and need not be shown or reported on National news programmes. Is this part of the much heralded education drive to push entertainment instead of education and information. Yours disappointed Peter Popper