

**Geoff Bond's comments Submitted to BBC Charter Review Jan 30 2004**

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To: BBC Charter Review

Subject: Key Questions Quickie

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question1: Because it is not financed by commercial interests, it ought to be independent of pressure to get high ratings. However this is not the case. It puts on dross like soap operas at prime time.

question2: How should the BBC adapt to cope with changes in technology and culture?

question3: Terrestrial TV has become unwatchable and I live part of the year in USA where the TV is lamentable too. Most of the BBC current affairs programmes try gamely to be 'balanced' -- between the limits of a spectrum that ranges from socialist to Trotskyite. It is painfully politically correct. Let us have some exposure to viewpoints from the non-BBC paradigm. I find the time given to religious sects far overdone. Let us have more time given to secular, 'bright' belief systems in the spirit of the Enlightenment. Enough of propaganda for the promotion of the supernatural and the superstitious.

question4: Should the BBC run commercial services? YES

question5: Is the BBC organised in the most effective and efficient way?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? BUT BY DEFINITION, A BUREAUCRACY THAT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR AS LONG AS THE BBC, MUST BE AS THOROUGHLY ARTHRITIC AS A RAILWAY COMPANY.

question6: How should the BBC be governed and regulated?

CLEARLY THERE SHOULD BE A SEPARATION BETWEEN THE TWO ROLES.

question7: How do we ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and Parliament?

question8: Open up the chintz curtains and allow in some thinkers who are not from the BBC mould. The only time I have enjoyed 'Any Questions' in recent years is when you had Peter Hitchens and Patrick Moore on the panel.

Publish my response on the BBC Charter Review Website?: Yes