

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes on...The BBC

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The Director-General of the BBC, Mark Thompson, believes that shunting Radio 5 Live, Children's programmes and sport to Manchester "will win back the trust of parts of the country which currently feel quite alienated from the BBC".

He is wrong. He is also stupid if, he really believes that a bit of cosmetic surgery will restore viewer's confidence in the BBC. He will need to remove most of the elitist metropolitan management and replace them with real people to achieve this objective.

The truth about the metropolitan media elite that runs television was provided by a recent survey of the politics, lifestyle and interests of the top fifty television executives.

This showed that they are invariably left-wing, live in North London - in Islington and Camden - read The Guardian, hate reality TV shows, soaps and sport - which, of course, most of us watch - and view only minority programmes.

Indeed, when being interrogated by four senior women executives when I was being sacked by the BBC - the Head of Daytime TV, the woman in charge of editorial policy, the boss of TV, Jena Bennett, - not one had actually watched BBC's Question Time the night before!

These people decide our viewing, yet they look down on us, patronise us. They rarely venture outside of London - or even the Groucho Club - commission programmes from each other and are insulated from real life. A fact indicated by the survey showing that their most frequent complaint was about London taxi drivers!

Clearly these people are out of touch with the real world. Having children's programmes produced in a studio in Manchester will not change this one bit. The real worry, however, is that the Director-General clearly does not understand this.

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