

Dougal Scoitt
Project Director
PSB Review
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9AH

01 October 2007

Dear Dougal,

Re. Ofcom's 2nd Review of Public Service Television Broadcasting

The Media Trust welcomes the Terms of Reference for Ofcom's PSB Review. The terms are wide-reaching and allow for a broad review of the interests of citizens, as well as consumers.

As you know, the Media Trust owns and runs Community Channel, the UK television channel dedicated to informing, inspiring and engaging UK citizens in local to global communities. We have responded to recent consultations on PSB, PSP and the Digital Dividend.

We would urge you to ensure that the review gives significant attention to the following issues:

- Plurality of ownership and content
- Diversity of content, reflecting the widest range of communities and voices
- Regional and local content and voices
- Citizens' interests, including in ongoing decisions on DTT spectrum allocation
- Content made by and for citizens
- Access to public funding for psb content production
- Young people – Media Trust currently runs the Government's Youth Media Fund (Mediabox), an excellent pilot model for a potential PSP/Public Service Content fund
- PSB partnerships – how partnerships with non-PSB channels and content providers could become a key part of existing PS Broadcasters' remit

We welcome the fact that "the scope of this Review will be extended to include other audio visual services already launched or in development by the PSBs and to assess the potential for other broadcasters and other institutions to contribute to public purposes, whether for commercial reasons or as part of a broader PSB ecology " and that Ofcom recognizes that "the definition of PSB is evolving to encompass content delivered by other means and on diverse platforms."

We have already in previous responses encouraged the "need for intervention to support new, alternative or complementary methods of delivering the purposes of public service broadcasting in future", and welcome this emphasis in the Review.

Non public service broadcasters:

We are pleased that the Review “will also include greater consideration of the delivery of the public service purposes on non-broadcast platforms and by non public service broadcasters.” We would hope that Community Channel should be seen as one key example of a broadcaster delivering key public service content and purposes, both through our broadcast and non-broadcast platforms.

DTT allocation:

We welcome your commitment that the Review will consider “the future role of the DTT platform in delivering PSB purposes”; however we are concerned that decisions being made in the very near future regarding allocation of DTT spectrum will restrict options for consideration of this crucial issue as part of the Review. We would urge that Ofcom should agree now to ring-fence a small element of DTT spectrum post-switchover for emerging new forms of PSB delivery via DTT, including Community Channel.

Content production:

We would hope that the review includes a review of current and potential content made by and for citizens, communities, Third Sector organizations and young people, and not to restrict the review of content production to the established production sector.

We look forward to participating in the review, and to working with you to ensure that the wider Third Sector can also participate.

With good wishes

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cc Mark Bunting, Project Manager, PSB Review, Ofcom