



CREATIVE WRITERS NETWORK

growing an active writers' community in Northern Ireland

Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London, SE1 9HA.

PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk

June 15th 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

Re: Creative Writers Network (CWN), Northern Ireland response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation.

Creative Writers Network (CWN) is the umbrella organisation for Northern Irish writers and writers' groups. We currently have 575 members from across the North. We provide a wide range of services, which assist the individual writer in the development, and pursuance of their craft including workshops, mentoring and critical feedback, literary events including the annual Brian Moore Short Story and professional skills development.

In response to your consultation and in relation to your main objective of furthering the interests of citizen-consumers; in particular, developing "*a new broadcasting licensing*



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regime to foster self-regulation and broaden citizen/consumer choice” we would recommend that Ofcom considers acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

We know at first hand the importance of involving local people in arts and culture. We have worked with Northern Visions/NvTv on programming for the local television station and appreciate the benefits that community media can deliver. Empowering citizens to become content providers and creating media which reflects and raises awareness of local issues and interests constitutes a valuable public service. It enhances skills, encourages a sense of place and ownership of the city and has the potential to foster greater citizenship.

In relation to the development of local television in Belfast, we should be grateful if Ofcom would support NvTv being carried on Freeview as a local public service broadcaster. Such a development would ensure that everyone in the city has access to a valuable local service and would support the efforts of the arts and community media sector to nurture the city’s cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely,
Deborah Madden
Programme Director