

Dear Sirs

The Saltire Society ,which was founded in 1936, exists to promote and encourage Scottish culture.While recalling and sustaining our Scottish cultural heritage we seek to recognise and sponsor new expressions of Scottish cultural experience.

The Society is aware that culture is a matter devolved to the Scottish Parliament and Government.However it also recognises, as do many in society and across political groups in the country, that while broadcasting is the modern medium for the carrying of culture, broadcasting is not the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament.It is to be noted that the Calman Commission, established with support from the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Parties to consider the development of devolution and the possibility and desirability of new powers for the Scottish Parliament has in a recent interim report identified broadcasting as a candidate for devolved control. It may be assumed that the SNP which is the minority Scottish Government is in favour of control of broadcasting in Scotland and the Scottish Broadcasting Commission which reported in 2008 did not rule out the passage of control to the Scottish devolved administration in the future.

The Society for its part is concerned in a general way for more Scottish programmes of high quality.It is less concerned with the mechanism of how this happens than with the happening itself. The Society is not encouraged by efforts to integrate Scotland into the English network by dispatching old culturally English programmes such as "Question Time" and the "Weakest Link" to production centres in Glasgow.This may of course develop the skills of a local workforce, assuming local personnel are employed in the programmes in question , but will do little to advance the aims of an "original, bold and intelligent" broadcasting service in Glasgow.

We agree with Blair Jenkins chair of the Scottish Broadcasting Commission when he says" there can be no UK solution for the future of public service broadcasting that does not include a Scottish solution."

We have not tackled the consultation questions with some regret. The questions for the UK are not perhaps appropriate to Scotland at this time. Some might say that from a Scottish perspective UK broadcasting, looked at in the round , is one long public service broadcast on behalf of a metropolitan English elite.As regards the issues that are seen as concerned with nations and regions (nations other than England and English regions) the Review was completed and published before the report of the Scottish Broadcasting Commission and so was unable to consider that report.

The Society acknowledges that the Scottish Broadcasting Commission report entitled "Platform for Success" has won the unanimous support of MSPs at Holyrood and believes that the developments which the report proposes represent the best way forward for public service broadcasting in Scotland .

Yours faithfully

Cunison Rankin
Chairman, The Saltire Society