

**3i) Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment that television continues to have an essential role in delivering the purposes of public service broadcasting?:**

Yes. Public service is exceptionally important and the television medium has a critical role.

**3ii) Do you agree that UK-originated output is fundamental to the delivery of public service broadcasting purposes?:**

Yes. I strongly agree.

**4i) Do you agree with Ofcom's conclusions about the way that other digital channels and interactive media contribute towards the public purposes?:**

Yes, I agree

**5i) Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the implications of different economic scenarios for the UK TV market for the future prospects for delivery of the public purposes?:**

Yes. The public service contribution should not suffer even under economic pressure.

**5ii) Do you agree with Ofcom's analysis of the costs and benefits of PSB status?:**

Yes

**6i) Do you agree with Ofcom's vision for public service content?:**

Yes, I agree. We must avoid a broadcasting curtain around a narrow interpretation of the United Kingdom. More freedom of the airways is a crying need. Through the mechanism of muscle broadcasting the parochialism of London is being imposed throughout the "British Isles".

**6ii) How important are plurality and competition for quality in delivering the purposes of public service broadcasting, and in what areas?:**

A certain amount of competition is healthy. The dictatorship of populism, however, has become a huge threat to public well-being.

**6iii) In maximising reach and impact of public service content in the future, what roles can different platforms and services play?:**

More use of fair allocation of frequencies is needed. For example Belfast Citybeat, broadcasting on 102.5, is now squeezing out Radio na Gaeltachta (102.7). This is disastrous to listeners of the latter, who have very little choice. Citybeat on the other hand is just another of the huge and overpowering number of "popular" stations, which are two a penny, and put out the same material as all the others in the same category.

**6iv) Do you agree that the existing model for delivering public service broadcasting will not be sufficient to meet changing needs in future?:**

BBC Radio4 is apparently the only electronic medium in these islands which has a direct public service philosophy. It may be a "law" of broadcasting that the more supranational a medium is- the more it has a strong PS element. The World Service of the BBC (PS++) is at one end of the spectrum, while the very local Stephen Nolan Show promotes uninformed individualism and tends to demote the public good.

**7i) What are your views of the high-level options for funding public service broadcasting in future?:**

To maintain high civilised standards of information distribution and to promote critical thinking, Public service is essential.

**7ii) Are the proposed tests of effectiveness for future models for public service broadcasting the right ones?:**

Yes, I believe they are appropriate.

**7iii) Of the four possible models for long term delivery of public service content, which, if any, do you consider the most appropriate and why? Are there any alternative models, or combination of models that could be more appropriate, and why?:**

**8i) What do you think is the appropriate public service role for Channel 4 in the short, medium and long term? What do you think of Channel 4's proposed vision?:**

I am very doubtful of the commitment of Channel 4 to PS

**8ii) Which of the options set out for the commercial PSBs do you favour?:**

**9i) To what extent do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the likely future long term issues as they apply to the nations, regions and localities of the UK?:**

Even with satellite broadcasting it is hard to get news and information from other countries themselves. Deutsche Welle needs to be accessed by computer, a very tedious method of broadcasting. The direct contact with Europe is minimal

**9ii) Which model(s) do you think will be most appropriate in each of the nations and in the English regions in the long term, and why?:**

Choice is the key to PSB. It is virtually impossible to get SW receivers. Commercialism dictates what we see and hear. Irish language broadcasting need to meet the growing demand for this medium. And this basic need is not being met, much less the promotion of Irish. The British Government has signed up to the latter, through the Charter of Lesser used languages, but has done very little in broadcasting. Indeed the Television budget for Northern Ireland was cut recently.

**9iii) What are your views on short/medium-term issues referred to, including the out-of-London network production quotas?:**

**9iv) What are your initial views on the preliminary options set out relating to ITV plc's regional news proposal? (Please note that Ofcom will put forward firm options on these issues, and consult also on ITV plc's regional news proposal, in phase 2 of this Review.):**

Their subsidiary, UTV has got away with doing virtually about Irish language programmes. The last one they made was leading upto the renewal of the charter. And this trick appeared to work!!

**10i) Do you agree with our assessment of the possible short term options available relating to children's programming:**

**11i) Do you agree that new legislation will need to be in place by 2011 in order to ensure continued delivery of the public purposes in the medium and long term?:**

**Comments:**

I would appeal to Ofcom to give fair play to the Irish language. Especial attention should be paid to access to channels and stations. Frequency allocation, band widths. (The BBC gives a range 25-27 FM?. Is this legal?) should not interfere with other broadcasts.