

**Title:**

**Forename:**

**Surname:**

**Representing:**

Organisation

**Organisation (if applicable):**

Ulster Unionist Party

**Email:**

**What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:**

Keep name confidential

**If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:**

**Ofcom may publish a response summary:**

Yes

**I confirm that I have read the declaration:**

Yes

**Additional comments:**

**Question 1: Do you agree that the existing obligations on Channel 3 and Channel 5 licensees in respect of national and international news and current affairs, original productions, and Out of London productions should be maintained at their current levels? If not, what levels do you consider appropriate, and why? :**

We are broadly content with existing obligations but with regard to the "Out of London" productions, we are keen to see an expansion as the Northern Ireland Executive has targeted the creative industries as a key growth area for the Northern Ireland economy.

**Question 2: Do you agree with ITV's proposals for changes to its regional news arrangements in England, including an increase in the number of news regions in order to provide a more localised service, coupled with a reduction in overall news minutage? :**

For the purposes of this consultation, the Ulster Unionist Party is primarily concerned with regional news arrangements at Ulster Television.

**Question 3: Do you agree with UTV's proposal for non-news obligations should be reduced to 90 minutes a week? If not, what alternative would you propose and why? :**

We oppose any reduction in non-news output if it further diminishes UTV's current and public affairs coverage. UTV has already reduced significantly its current affairs output. Such output is important for two key reasons (a) UTV has a tradition of being among the most popular of all Channel 3 regions, and therefore they have an excellent reach, and with it, have a capacity to explain and inform the NI population which cannot be matched by other broadcasters, terrestrial or satellite, and (b) it is essential that UTV provide competition to BBC NI, in order to ensure quality output by the BBC.

**Question 4: Do you agree with the proposals by STV to maintain overall minutage for regional content in the northern and central licence areas of Scotland at 5 hours 30 minutes a week, as detailed in Annex 3? If not, what alternative would you propose, and why? :**

As above, for the purposes of this consultation, the Ulster Unionist Party is primarily concerned with regional news arrangements at Ulster Television.

**Question 5: Do you agree with the proposals by ITV to maintain the overall minutage for regional content in Wales at 5 hours 30 minutes a week, as detailed in Annex 3? If not, what alternative would you propose, and why? :**

As above, for the purposes of this consultation, the Ulster Unionist Party is primarily concerned with regional news arrangements at Ulster Television.

**Question 6: Do you agree with the proposals by ITV to reduce the overall minutage for regional content in the Channel Islands from 4 hours a week to 3 hours 20 minutes as detailed in Annex 3, while maintaining the present provision of a 30 minute early evening regional news programme? If not, what alternative would you propose, and why? :**

As above, for the purposes of this consultation, the Ulster Unionist Party is primarily concerned with regional news arrangements at Ulster Television.

**Question 7: Do you have any views on any other aspects of the nations and regions programming and production obligations of the Channel 3 licensees? :**

We are keen to establish Northern Ireland as a centre of excellence for the creative Industries and would therefore resist any attempt to reduce locally generated output.

**Question 8: Which option would you prefer in respect of the news and current affairs in the Border region, and why? :**

As above, for the purposes of this consultation, the Ulster Unionist Party is primarily concerned with regional news arrangements at Ulster Television.

**Question 9: If option 2 were to be adopted, should ITV be required to provide separate transmission for the Scottish and English parts of the region on DTT? :**

As above, for the purposes of this consultation, the Ulster Unionist Party is primarily concerned with regional news arrangements at Ulster Television.

**Question 10: If you would prefer a different option to those set out in Questions 8 and 9 above, please explain what, and why:**

As above, for the purposes of this consultation, the Ulster Unionist Party is primarily concerned with regional news arrangements at Ulster Television.

**Question 11: Do you agree that the Border licence should be amended to reduce the proportion of regional production required to a sustainable level? If not, what proposals would you like to make? :**

As above, for the purposes of this consultation, the Ulster Unionist Party is primarily concerned with regional news arrangements at Ulster Television.

**Question 12: What views do you have on the proposal by STV and UTV to extend peak time to 11pm, which would extend the window in which they could schedule regional content that must be shown in peak time?:**

We would not support any proposal to extend UTV peak time to 11pm as we would have concerns that to do so would dilute the impact and reach of regional programming. We therefore would strongly support the retention of 10:30pm as the upper limit of "peak-time".