

I am a network TV drama director whose career was developed by regional TV production.

The OFCOM PSB consultation document appears to ignore the importance of the role of local regional production, both in terms of specific regional content, and in the provision of a meaningful career structure for new filmmakers.

I come from a working class, Anglo Welsh background. I graduated from Newport Film School, minus agent or relatives within the BBC, and I found the only receptive employer locally was ITV Wales who put me to work directing its enormously popular regional production output – Nuts & Bolts, and Mind To Kill in particular to name but two. This was a fantastic experience for me. I was very proud and happy to be working within my own Anglo-Welsh idiom, and felt that what we were making, which drew huge audiences within Wales, had an aesthetic and cultural value well beyond the normal ambitions of drama production.

With the closure of ITV Wales, and the proposed reduction of out-of-London production quotas, I am concerned there will be even less focus on regional content. There will also be a further erosion of employment opportunities, and less opportunity for a meaningful career structure for regional filmmakers.

I would hope that in whatever form PSB is delivered in the future, there will be some thought given to providing for the considerable appetite for original regional content and production. The majority of people in Wales speak English, and it's this silent majority who could become increasingly disenfranchised.