

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Hayden

Surname:

Goodfellow

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

What additional details do you want to keep confidential? :

No

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? :

I think the level is appropriate.

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? :

No. Slow news days hit smaller regions even harder.

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? :

Yes.

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? :

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? :

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? :

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? :

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

Option 1, there is clearly little appetite to break the region into Scotland/England sections. There are no problems with compiling news bulletins from studios in Gateshead, provided content is gathered from (and focuses on) the Border area. The problem with Option 2 is that it shifts the focus of 'local' news from the Urban NE of England to the Central Belt, neither of which areas viewers in the Border region consider 'local'.

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? :

Yes, viewers in the North of England will be uninterested in programming focussed on the Central Belt (as programming produced in conjunction with other STV regions likely would be).

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

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 long as news gathering is carried out in the local area, it could be compiled and transmitted from the Moon as far as end viewers are concerned. There are no issues with ITV continuing to share offices between the Border and Tyne Tees regions for compiling news and studios for broadcasting.

Especially considering the alternative would entail having fewer resources available to gather local news, which viewers in the Border region feel can not be reduced.

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? :

I see no problems with this. In the age of DVRs such as Sky+, the time a programme is broadcast is largely irrelevant as people have the option to record a programme and watch it at a convenient time.