

Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom ,
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London,
SE1 9HA.
PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk
6/6/08



Dear Ms. Parry,

**Re: C21 Theatre Company, Northern Ireland response to the consultation:
Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review - Phase One: The Digital
Opportunity consultation**

C21 Theatre Company is comprised of professional actors from Northern Ireland and aims to provide performing talent in Northern Ireland further opportunity to develop and practice their craft and to provide audiences theatrical exposure to the work of notable writers that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience.

In response to your consultation and in relation to your main objective of furthering the interests of citizen-consumers; in particular, developing "a *new broadcasting licensing regime to foster self-regulation and broaden citizen/consumer choice*" we would recommend that Ofcom considers acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

We know at first hand of the social benefits that the arts and community media can deliver. Empowering citizens to become content providers and creating media which reflects and raises awareness of local issues and interests constitutes a valuable public service. It enhances skills, encourages a sense of place and ownership of the city and has the potential to foster greater citizenship.

Central funding provisions have been made in the Communications Act for community radio and local digital television. Ofcom should consider a fund, which could potentially be drawn from the licence fee and from top-slicing commercial broadcasting licences or other central government sources.

Regarding aspects of work required to bring about a UK map of local and community television following analogue TV switch-off post 2010, we would request your assurance that no planning, at this stage, precludes a network of local digital multiplexes.

In relation to the development of local television in Belfast, we should be grateful if Ofcom would support NvTv being carried on Freeview as a local public service broadcaster. Such a development would ensure that everyone in the city has access to a valuable local service and would support the efforts of all of us working in the arts and community media to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter Quigley'.

Peter Quigley
Artistic Director
C21 Theatre Company
c21 theatrecompany.com