

Rhona Parry,  
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June 11th 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

**Re: Institute for Conflict Research, Northern Ireland response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review - Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation**

The Institute for Conflict Research is an independent research organization and not for profit company, which specialises in working on issues related to conflict, human rights, social transformation and social justice. We undertake a diverse range of work on issues such as violence, equality and diversity, freedom of assembly and human rights and the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland. We also work in partnership with other research organizations, private sector bodies community and voluntary organisations and universities. We work mainly in Northern Ireland but also further afield.

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 have worked with Northern Visions/NvTv on programming about the issues faced by interface communities in Belfast and we appreciate the social benefits, which community media and local television 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.

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 who are working to create a socially inclusive society as well as nurturing the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely

Neil Jarman,  
Director