

# Justice for Dockers

Rhona Parry  
PSB Review,  
Ofcom ,  
Riverside House,  
2A Southwark Bridge Road  
London,  
SE1 9HA.

June 10<sup>th</sup> 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

**Re: Justice for Dockers, Belfast response to the consultation:  
Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review - Phase One:  
The Digital Opportunity consultation**

I am one of a number of dockers who are dying from the terrible, debilitating disease, which is asbestosis. Asbestos has been recognised as a health hazard for almost a hundred years, and continued to be used in industry until very recently. As a consequence, myself and many of my fellow workers are fighting claims for compensation not just on behalf of ourselves but our family members, those who worked in the docks and other workers as well. Dockers usually receive compensation from employers in Asbestosis cases, however men from Belfast have been waiting over five years.

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 closely with Northern Visions/NvTv, the Belfast local television station, on television programming, which has highlighted the health problems and the inequality we are facing daily. Empowering citizens to become content providers and creating media which reflects and raises awareness of local issues and interests constitutes a valuable public service ..

In relation to the development of local television in Belfast, we should be grateful if Ofcom would support Northern Visions/NvTv being carried on Freeview as a local public service broadcaster. This would mean that everyone in our city would have access to a valuable local service and would support the efforts of those of us seeking to bring health issues and inequalities to a wider audience.

Yours sincerely

Arthur Rafferty