

16th June 2008

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

Dear Rhona Parry,

Re: Windsor Women's Centre, Belfast, response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review - Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation.

Since its establishment in 1990, Windsor Women's Centre has been committed to providing vital services for the diverse needs of women within the local community. We are situated in the 'Village' area of South Belfast, an area of major social and economic deprivation, where the needs of the local community include provisions for education, training, childcare, advice and information capacity building, developing confidence and addressing issues of health and the environment are paramount.

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 on programming for the local television station and have first hand experience of the social benefits which community media and local television can deliver. Our centre, through its various programmes and services, contributes significantly to community cohesion and social inclusion, in empowering women to become proactive and vocal members of the community. 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
Eleanor Jordan
Joint Co-ordinator