

**Title:**

Mrs

**Forename:**

Christine

**Surname:**

Constable

**Representing:**

Organisation

**Organisation (if applicable):**

English Democrats & The English Lobby

**If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:**

**3i) Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment that television continues to have an essential role in delivering the purposes of public service broadcasting?:**

Yes, it is for that reason that it is vital that the BBC is not allowed such a huge monopoly. The barriers to entry for TV programming are now so high, other than a tiny group of state funded and internationally financed organisations can have access to it.

There has been little evidence that the "new media" has made access to television more democratic, open or flexible. In fact the reverse is the case, access is now restricted more than ever and State funded monopolies or channels relying on state funding now provide the lion's share of material for UK television. This is unacceptable.

**3ii) Do you agree that UK-originated output is fundamental to the delivery of public service broadcasting purposes?:**

Too much of the tax payers funding of the BBC has gone to pay for US and foreign material and far too little of this money has been used to develop, nurture and bring on talent which is UK based.

The decision by which acquisitions are made and editorial decisions are applied are opaque and open to charges of bias and partiality. In the case of the BBC there have been numerous internal and external reports (in addition to anecdotal evidence) that the BBC has abused its role as a disproportionately large player, funded by taxpayers

and not having to comply with normal market disciplines. Such a player skews the ability of private players to enter the market and the ownership and access to the broadcasting medium is too expensive for many to become involved.

**4i) Do you agree with Ofcom's conclusions about the way that other digital channels and interactive media contribute towards the public purposes?:**

OFCOM should force the BBC public service providers to allocate funds to communities to produce local programming, this has never come to fruition. In fact the reverse has happened, the BBC now restrict very tightly the access of the public into the BBC, and that cannot be fair or good for free speech or education.

**5i) Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the implications of different economic scenarios for the UK TV market for the future prospects for delivery of the public purposes?:**

**5ii) Do you agree with Ofcom's analysis of the costs and benefits of PSB status?:**

**6i) Do you agree with Ofcom's vision for public service content?:**

**6ii) How important are plurality and competition for quality in delivering the purposes of public service broadcasting, and in what areas?:**

This is absolutely critical if the public are to have any confidence in the public broadcasting sector.

The BBC in particular should have more community allocated spots to debate issues and ideas. Communities should be free to discuss their realities in their own words WITHOUT heavy editing or interference from rules bound BBC executives that have turned the BBC into a largely bland broadcasting organisation.

Political coverage should become mandatory across public and private broadcasting - the level of ignorance amongst the populace on issues of critical national importance is a disgrace.

Political parties should be given greater freedom to debate ideas and be challenged by the public. The failure of public broadcasting to engage the public on issues such as Europe, Democracy, free speech, community life etc makes our society sterile and manipulated. If the market won't countenance greater coverage on these essential issues then the regulatory authority needs to step in and force time to be given on these issues as part of a responsible and rounded broadcasting media.

**6iii) In maximising reach and impact of public service content in the future, what roles can different platforms and services play?:**

**6iv) Do you agree that the existing model for delivering public service broadcasting will not be sufficient to meet changing needs in future?:**

Absolutely.

The BBC will find it increasingly difficult to justify its high cost when so many cheaper platforms can deliver equally good programmes at a lower cost. The BBC will need to be broken into specialist areas and move away from its Civil Servant mentality which is stultifying its development and the quality and variety of public debate in the UK.

The internet linked to the television should enable an explosion of diverse programming, OFCOM need to help this technology get on its feet and enable organisations to participate by removing the monopoly control organisations such as the BBC and News Corporation have over it.

**7i) What are your views of the high-level options for funding public service broadcasting in future?:**

We believe the BBC should focus on news broadcasting, documentaries and educational aspects and leave entertainment and other aspects to the wider market.

The BBC should focus on non market friendly areas supporting the culture, history, education and wider understanding of the world at large.

It should not develop periphery businesses, engage in acquisitions such as "Lonely Planet", it should hive off its back catalogue to a non profit making trust who should make its entire repertoire and archive available to the public for a nominal fee, allowing non profit organisations to use its material to educate and inform.

**7ii) Are the proposed tests of effectiveness for future models for public service broadcasting the right ones?:**

**7iii) Of the four possible models for long term delivery of public service content, which, if any, do you consider the most appropriate and why? Are there any alternative models, or combination of models that could be more appropriate, and why?:**

**8i) What do you think is the appropriate public service role for Channel 4 in the short, medium and long term? What do you think of Channel 4's proposed vision?:**

**8ii) Which of the options set out for the commercial PSBs do you favour?:**

**9i) To what extent do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the likely future long term issues as they apply to the nations, regions and localities of the UK?:**

Agree to some extent

**9ii) Which model(s) do you think will be most appropriate in each of the nations and in the English regions in the long term, and why?:**

We do not accept that there is any such thing as English Regions.

There are English Counties and there is England, but regions are an EU construct which has not been accepted by the people and as such we object to the use of the term. England is a nation, if Ofcom does not consider England to be a nation then perhaps you are the wrong organisation to be protecting English values and English culture.

In our opinion programming should be split into Wales, Scotland and England. With the option for people to "red button" into Welsh/Irish/English affairs if they are minded so to do.

**9iii) What are your views on short/medium-term issues referred to, including the out-of-London network production quotas?:**

This is less important than just ensuring that a wider coverage is maintained.

It is noticeable that when interviews are held in schools they are often inner city schools that bear little relationship to the wider English indigenous community, who themselves feel threatened and alienated by the images often seen, which put white Anglo Saxon children in a tiny minority in their own country.

**9iv) What are your initial views on the preliminary options set out relating to ITV plc's regional news proposal? (Please note that Ofcom will put forward firm options on these issues, and consult also on ITV plc's regional news proposal, in phase 2 of this Review.):**

No comment

**10i) Do you agree with our assessment of the possible short term options available relating to children's programming:**

Yes providing the quality of the programmin is improved, political correctness does not dominate the agenda and that common values of a civilisaed society are promoted rather than the political agenda of a group of left or right wing elites.

**11i) Do you agree that new legislation will need to be in place by 2011 in order to ensure continued delivery of the public purposes in the medium and long term?:**

Yes, transitional arrangements which will have a longer term impact on currnt monopoly providers need a fair period of notice to downsize their operations and ready themselves for a new approach.

Ofcom must expand the opportunity for people to engage with this media by breaking the stranglehold of the oligopoly of providers.

**Comments:**