

**Title:**

**Forename:**

**Surname:**

**Representing:**

Self

**Organisation (if applicable):**

**Email:**

**What additional details do you want to keep confidential? :**

Keep name confidential

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

**Ofcom may publish a response summary:**

Yes

**I confirm that I have read the declaration:**

Yes

**Additional comments:**

**Question 1: Do you agree that the existing obligations on Channel 3 and Channel 5 licensees in respect of national and international news and current affairs, original productions, and Out of London productions should be maintained at their current levels? If not, what levels do you consider appropriate, and why? :**

I believe most Public Service Broadcasting obligations on Channel 3 and Channel 5 are at the correct level. However, I feel that in England, ITV plc should be producing at least 30 minutes per week of non-News Regional programming, and ideally should return to providing the same level of regional output as that broadcast to the nations.

**Question 2: Do you agree with ITV's proposals for changes to its regional news arrangements in England, including an increase in the number of news regions in order to provide a more localised service, coupled with a reduction in overall news minutage? :**

I feel that the Tyne Tees Television area has been forgotten under these proposals. This area had a sub-regional split for many years (longer than many other ITV regions), and this was ended in 2009 along with other regions of the country when the Border TV area was joined with Tyne Tees.

Tyne Tees serves an area of 2.5 million people across a wide geographical area, and the "southern" part of this region (Teesside and North Yorkshire) is quite distinct from the Newcastle/Sunderland dominated North.

If other areas of the country are to see a return to a sub-regional service, so should Tyne Tees.

Additionally, if savings are to be made by sharing material between neighbouring regions, the TT South area has a sizeable overlap with the Yorkshire north area, and report-sharing of 10% could be made here (this would be far more reasonable than sharing with the Border area, which has negligible overlap with Tyne Tees).

**Question 3: Do you agree with UTV's proposal for non-news obligations should be reduced to 90 minutes a week? If not, what alternative would you propose and why? :**

**Question 4: Do you agree with the proposals by STV to maintain overall minutage for regional content in the northern and central licence areas of Scotland at 5 hours 30 minutes a week, as detailed in Annex 3? If not, what alternative would you propose, and why? :**

**Question 5: Do you agree with the proposals by ITV to maintain the overall minutage for regional content in Wales at 5 hours 30 minutes a week, as detailed in Annex 3? If not, what alternative would you propose, and why? :**

**Question 6: Do you agree with the proposals by ITV to reduce the overall minutage for regional content in the Channel Islands from 4 hours a week to 3 hours 20 minutes as detailed in Annex 3, while maintaining the present provision of a 30 minute early evening regional news programme? If not, what alternative would you propose, and why? :**

**Question 7: Do you have any views on any other aspects of the nations and regions programming and production obligations of the Channel 3 licensees? :**

**Question 8: Which option would you prefer in respect of the news and current affairs in the Border region, and why? :**

I do not consider it a reasonable use of ITV's limited funds to provide an enhanced service to the Border TV area if this comes at the expense of other areas under their control.

The Border service in England, in particular, should be set at the same level as the rest of England. If this means that the service is politically sensitive, perhaps that reflects the fact that regional provision throughout the UK is not sufficient.

**Question 9: If option 2 were to be adopted, should ITV be required to provide separate transmission for the Scottish and English parts of the region on DTT? :**

Yes.

**Question 10: If you would prefer a different option to those set out in Questions 8 and 9 above, please explain what, and why:**

Improvements to the Border Television service should reflect a general improvement across ITV. As previously mentioned, I feel that the whole of England should gain a weekly 30 minute non-news broadcast, especially if news provision is to be reduced by nearly 50%.

Regional coverage on ITV in England has fallen significantly behind services from still-independent regions in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and I do not accept that English regions (especially those more remote areas) have less requirement to regional coverage than areas of the country that happen not to be in England, to the degree English viewers currently have to put up with.

**Question 11: Do you agree that the Border licence should be amended to reduce the proportion of regional production required to a sustainable level? If not, what proposals would you like to make? :**

**Question 12: What views do you have on the proposal by STV and UTV to extend peak time to 11pm, which would extend the window in which they could schedule regional content that must be shown in peak time? :**