

Local Television Network: Variation Requests on behalf of 17 local TV licensees

Proposed change to programming commitments

Statutory consultation under section 19(3C) of the Broadcasting Act 1996

CONSULTATION:

Publication Date: 09 July 2019

Closing Date for Responses: 07 August 2019

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1. Overview

All local TV licences contain programming commitments which describe the licensed service the licensee is required to provide. The commitments have a specific focus on the amount and type of local content that will be broadcast on the service so as to reflect the needs and interests of the local area. The commitments set out in local TV licences reflect proposals submitted by licensees when applying for licences, which are awarded by Ofcom having regard to specified statutory criteria (although some may have been amended subsequently with Ofcom's consent).

The Local Television Network ("LTVN")¹ represents several of the organisations holding local TV licences in the UK². Three of those organisations, namely: **That's TV Broadcasting Limited** (under its holding company That's Media Limited); **Northern Visions Limited**; and **Notts TV Limited**, have requested that Ofcom change some of the programming commitments in the licences for 17 of their services. These services are those for each of the following locations: **Basingstoke**; **Carlisle**; **Guildford**; **Salisbury**; **Scarborough**; **Swansea**; **Edinburgh**; **Grimsby**; **Manchester**; **Norwich**; **Oxford**; **Preston**; **Reading**; **Southampton**; **Glasgow**; **Belfast**; and **Nottingham**.

What we are proposing – in brief

Ofcom has decided that the amendments requested by LTVN in respect of 17 local TV licences would in each case amount to a departure from the character of the licensed service. Under the statutory scheme for local TV licences, Ofcom is unable to consent to the proposed changes unless it is satisfied in relation to criteria set out in legislation. These criteria include, for example, that the departure should not substantially alter the character of the service, or unacceptably reduce the number and range of programmes made in or about the local area. Ofcom must consult on the changes proposed in the request before making its decision.

Ofcom is therefore publishing this consultation to seek the views of persons who might be affected by the requested amendments, particularly in respect of whether the changes requested by LTVN would satisfy the statutory criteria.

Our preliminary view is that we are minded to approve the proposed changes to the commitments in each licence. This is because in each case we are provisionally satisfied in relation to the statutory criteria. However, we are seeking views on the requests before we make a final decision. The consultation closes at **5pm on Wednesday 7 August 2019.**

¹ http://localTV.org.uk/

² <u>See section 5.82 of Ofcom's original local TV statement</u> about the formation of an entity intended to facilitate the provision of local TV services. This ultimately led to the formation of the Local TV Network.

2. Details and background information

- 2.1 Ofcom is the body responsible for licensing local digital television services ("local television services") in the United Kingdom. Currently, local television services operate in 34 locations across the country. Our powers and duties in exercising this function are contained in the Communications Act 2003 and the Broadcasting Act 1996, as modified by the Local Digital Television Programme Services Order 2012³.
- 2.2 The licence for each local TV service contains a set of programming commitments which describe the type and volume of locally-relevant programming which the licensees are required to provide. The commitments are annexed in each Local Digital Television Programme Service ("L-DTPS") licence.
- 2.3 Licensees can make requests to Ofcom to change their programming commitments in line with their licence conditions. In turn, Ofcom will consider such requests in accordance with the statutory criteria, as described below.
- 2.4 In this section, we set out:
 - a) the legal framework applicable to Ofcom's consideration of changes to programming commitments in L-DTPS licences; and
 - b) an overview of the changes requested by LTVN ("the Variation Requests").

Legal Framework

- 2.5 Section 19(3A)(c) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 ("the Act")⁴ requires Ofcom to include in L-DTPS licences such conditions as appear to it to be appropriate for securing that the character of the licenced service, as proposed by the licence holder when making the application for that licence, is maintained for the duration of the licence.
- Ofcom has therefore included in condition 5(1) of every L-DTPS licence a requirement that, for the duration of the licence, the licensee must maintain the character of the licensed service in accordance with the programming commitments set out in the annex of the licence.
- 2.7 The circumstances under which Ofcom may consent to a departure from the character of the licensed service are limited by section 19(3B) of the Act. As a result, condition 5(2) of all L-TDPS licences provides that Ofcom may, following the procedure set out in the Act, only consent to a departure from the character of the licensed service if it is satisfied that:
 - a) The departure would not substantially alter the character of the licensed service;
 - b) The departure would not unacceptably reduce the number and range of programmes about the area or locality for which the service is licensed;
 - c) The departure would not unacceptably reduce the number of programmes made in the area of locality for which the service is licensed; and

³ S.I. 2012/292

⁴ As modified by the Local Digital Television Services Order 2012.

- d) The service would continue to meet the needs of the area or locality for which the service is licensed.
- 2.8 Before deciding whether to consent to a departure from the character of a licensed service on the grounds set out above, Ofcom is required by section 19(3C) of the Act to publish a notice specifying:
 - a) The proposed departure; and
 - b) The period in which representations may be made to Ofcom about the proposal. This period must end later than 28 days after the publication of this notice.

The Variation Requests

- 2.9 LTVN is a local television network, representing certain L-DTPS licensees providing local television services in various locations across the UK. It has submitted a request to Ofcom on behalf of three licensees, in respect of 17 licensed services. Those licensees and services are:
 - a) That's TV Broadcasting Limited (the ultimate holding company is That's Media Limited), in respect of the licensed services for: Basingstoke; Carlisle; Guildford; Salisbury; Scarborough; Swansea; Edinburgh; Grimsby; Manchester; Norwich; Oxford; Preston; Reading; Southampton, and; Glasgow;
 - b) Northern Visions Limited, in respect of the licensed service for Belfast; and
 - c) Notts TV Limited, in respect of the licensed service for Nottingham.
- 2.10 The Variation Requests concern the programming commitments which reflect the character of each licensed service, particularly those relating to first-run local programming (including local news and current affairs programming).
- 2.11 Ofcom considers that the amendments requested in the Variation Requests would amount to a departure from the character of the service for each of the 17 local TV services. In each case, the overall effect of the request is to reduce the amount of first-run local programming, which will result in more non-local content being broadcast on the service and thus, change the character of the service. We are therefore issuing a public consultation seeking views on the Variation Requests.
- 2.12 Ofcom has decided to treat the proposed changes to the 17 services as one individual request for the purposes of this consultation, but will consider all responses to this consultation, whether or not they concern individual services or all of the requests as a whole, before deciding whether or not to consent to the proposals. Once all responses have been considered, Ofcom will reach individual decisions in respect of each of the 17 services. These decisions will be made independently of one another.
- 2.13 The changes requested by LTVN are summarised in the table below:

Summary of change	Services affected

a)	Reduction in the total amount of first-run local programming	 Basingstoke Belfast Carlisle Edinburgh Glasgow Grimsby Guildford Manchester Nottingham Oxford Preston Reading Salisbury Southampton Swansea
b)	Reduction in the amount of first-run local programming that is broadcast within peak hours (6-10.30pm)	 Basingstoke Belfast Carlisle Edinburgh Glasgow Grimsby Guildford Manchester Norwich Nottingham Oxford Reading Salisbury Scarborough Southampton Swansea
c)	Change to the amount of news and current affairs programming, both first-run and repeats	 Basingstoke Belfast Carlisle Edinburgh Glasgow Grimsby Guildford Manchester Norwich Nottingham Oxford Preston

d)	Reduction/removal of the requirement to broadcast repeats of the local content that is first-run on the local service	 Reading Salisbury Scarborough Southampton Swansea Belfast Edinburgh Glasgow Grimsby Manchester Norwich Nottingham Oxford Preston Scarborough Swansea
e)	Amending the non-quantified 'programming output' section of the programming commitments	 Swansea Basingstoke Belfast Carlisle Edinburgh Glasgow Grimsby Guildford Manchester Norwich Nottingham Oxford Preston Reading Salisbury Scarborough Southampton Swansea
f)	Removal of an addendum to the programming commitments	OxfordPrestonSouthampton

- 2.14 A non-confidential version of the Variation Requests is set out at Annex 5 of this consultation. Annex 5 also sets out the current programming commitments, with the proposed changes marked in red.
- 2.15 The issues on which we are seeking views in this consultation are outlined in section three of this document. The closing date for responses to this consultation is **7** August **2019**.

3. Consideration of the Variation Requests

- 3.1 As set out in section 2 of this consultation, Ofcom may consent to a departure from the character of a licensed local TV service if it is satisfied that the criteria set out in section 19(3B) of the Act are met. This section sets out:
 - a) a summary of LTVN's reasons for making the Variation Requests;
 - b) Ofcom's approach to considering the requests; and,
 - c) our preliminary view on the Variation Requests, having regard to the statutory criteria.

LTVN's reasons for the Variation Requests

- 3.2 In summary, LTVN has said that that the purpose of the Variation Requests is to "facilitate further collaboration between the service providers", and allow licensees to review "opportunities to put in place joint audience measurement, national advertising and a quasi-network schedule (a 'spine') alongside their local programming". LTVN submits that its proposals are not a substantial departure from the character of the licensed services currently offered.
- 3.3 LTVN has also stated that it would be challenging for a 'spine' network to achieve its full potential if many of the services which are included in the request are unable to materially align their local programming hours. The fundamental purpose of this request, therefore, is to align the commitments in the licences as much as possible to facilitate the creation of the 'spine' for the network.
- 3.4 Ofcom notes that many of the licensees in the Variation Requests have sought to amend the non-quantified programming output specified in their programming commitments, and some have asked to remove an addendum to their commitments. LTVN has stated that the removal of some of these programming output commitments would not impact the range of programming, but would make it possible to align the services with a view to future networking. LTVN has therefore sought to change the wording within these sections, rather than remove them entirely, in order to bring consistency between the services.
- 3.5 It appears to Ofcom that the amendments proposed by LTVN with regard to the non-quantified programming output and addendum sections of the commitments in some of the licences are an attempt to bring uniformity to the commitments for all licensees, with the aim of bringing flexibility and more potential for programme sharing between the services.
- 3.6 While Ofcom supports the proposal to share programming between services, it is important to note that this content will not necessarily contribute towards the local programming commitment for each service. These commitments must be represented by local programming which meets the needs of the locality it serves.
- 3.7 We set out below further details of LTVN's submissions in the context of each of the statutory criteria which Ofcom must consider. As mentioned in Section 2, full details as to

LTVN's reasons for making the Variation Requests are set out in Annex 5 of this consultation.

Ofcom's approach

- 3.8 In considering whether to consent to a request to depart from the character of a licensed service, Ofcom must be satisfied in relation to the criteria set out at paragraph 2.7. In making our provisional assessments, we have had regard to the cumulative effect of the changes on each of the licensed services together with the original commitments proposed by the relevant licensee when the licence was awarded.
- 3.9 We have also had regard to our statement published on 10 May 2012 (our "2012 statement"), which sets out how we exercise our powers and duties to license new local television services⁵. It outlines our minimum expectation for broadcast local news coverage which, according to LTVN, constitutes the vast majority of the programming within first-run local programming. In particular, we explain that "we would be unlikely to consider less than seven hours in total of broadcast news per week to be too burdensome for even the smallest L-DTPS licensee..." (page 5, section 1.47)
- 3.10 Within our statement, we also set out our expectation that local TV licensees take steps to ensure that a substantial proportion of first-run local programming is broadcast within peak hours. Peak time is defined in each of these licences as "18:00 22:30". Ofcom's interpretation of a 'substantial proportion' of first-run local programming in peak times is that it should generally mean at least 50%.

Our preliminary view

Criterion (a): that the departure would not substantially alter the character of the service

- 3.11 In its proposal, LTVN states that:
 - a) the licensees included in the request are committed to delivering community news, features and information. Every year, the licensees bring hundreds of community stories to their viewers, with community groups and charities frequently commenting on the favourable responses that they have received after being featured on local TV.
 - b) Ofcom's principal concern when granting the licences was to ensure that licensees were sustainable and able to produce local news and current affairs. Protecting a specific quantity of this content is of significant importance to ensure that the character of the services is maintained.
 - c) the licensees included in this request commit to continuing to produce a wide variety of local content to reflect social life and interest within the community, to ensure that the public policy for the sector is duly protected.

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⁵ Ofcom's 2012 statement

- 3.12 LTVN submits that demand for local content is reflective of the size of a licensed area. This is proportionate to the number of news-worthy items occurring in the locality. As such, the licensees for services which cover smaller locations have requested to reduce their commitments on first-run local programming and news and current affairs programming to the level outlined in our 2012 statement (for instance, 7 hours per week in respect of local news content), but the licensees for services which cover larger localities remain committed to providing first-run local programming to reflect the size of their licensed area.
- 3.13 Ofcom further notes that the Variation Requests propose to remove from many of the services the commitment to produce repeated local content. Under the proposals, repeats of topical programmes will still be available to viewers, but this will be at licensees' discretion rather than being essential for them to meet their commitments.
- 3.14 In Ofcom's view, securing an acceptable amount of first-run local programming, both in peak and across the service, is a significant factor in ensuring that the character of the service is maintained. Although Ofcom acknowledges that repeated content allows viewers to 'catch up' on the local content provided by the services, and therefore has a role in defining the character of the service, this is likely to be less important and have less of an impact than securing an acceptable amount of first-run local programming, both in peak-time and across the service as a whole.
- 3.15 While the Variation Requests include proposed reductions across most of the services with regard to news and current affairs programming (including both first-run and repeated programming), Ofcom understands that the vast majority of first-run local programming on each of the services included in the Variation Requests will include first-run news and current affairs programming. As set out in our 2012 statement, we consider news to be the most important type of local television content.
- 3.16 The LTVN proposals would also maintain a commitment on all the licensees to broadcast a substantial proportion of their first-run local programming within peak hours, thus it argues that this ensures that any departure from the character of a particular service is not substantial. It is also important to note that a number of licensees included in this request expect to exceed these commitments, for example, by showcasing local productions and making programmes which may be broadcast on other local TV services.
- 3.17 In Ofcom's view, viewers would be unlikely to notice any significant reduction in the amount of first-run news and current affairs programming on each service. This is primarily because in its submission, LTVN has stated that licensees included in the request "expect to exceed these minimum hours, including by sometimes showcasing local productions". Further, 'repeats' or 'looped' content which, in LTVN's view "risks undermining the viability of the overall network" is to be removed from some services (such as That's TV's 15 services, which loop first-run news and current affairs programming approximately every 15 minutes with slight changes included so that it can be classed as first-run). By relaxing the requirements on first-run content, Ofcom will provide licensees with an opportunity to ensure that their first-run content is suitably tailored for its viewers, as opposed to being looped to meet its commitments.

- 3.18 Ofcom therefore considers that while the total volume of first-run local programming in peak hours would be reduced across the services covered by the Variation Requests, the repetitive nature of the programming output would also reduce. Moreover, the amount of first-run local programming in peak hours offered by all of the services in this request appears to be sufficiently high in each case to maintain the character of the service, delivering at least the minimum 50% of local content as reflected in our statement of May 2012. In addition, the licensees appear to have demonstrated a strong commitment to delivering first-run local news and current affairs on each service⁶.
- 3.19 On that basis, it appears to Ofcom that if we were to consent to the departure from the character of service of each licence, the changes included in the Variation Requests would not substantially alter the character of each licensed service.

Criterion (b): that the departure would not unacceptably reduce the number and range of the programmes about the area or locality for which the service is licensed

- 3.20 Ofcom notes that the effect of the proposals, if approved, would be for each of the 17 services included in the Variation Requests to reduce the number of programmes made about the locality they are licensed to serve. We also note that many of the licensees included in the request have proposed to remove the commitment to produce repeated local content from their services. We recognise that reducing the levels of local content in the current commitments may risk increasing the volume of non-local content being broadcast on the services, which could, in turn, impact the character of each service.
- 3.21 Our preliminary view, however, is that the reductions in these cases would not unacceptably reduce the number and range of the programmes about the area provided by each service, given that all services have committed to producing an acceptable amount of original local content, with specific focus on news and current affairs programming across a week, and a substantial proportion of this will be broadcast during peak-time. In this proposal, as described in paragraph 3.17, the flexibility offered to licensees by allowing a reduction in the programming commitments would result in the current model changing (specifically for That's TV, which is responsible for all but two of the services to which the Variation Request relates). As a result, all first-run news and current affairs programming will contain original material, rather than looped content with the intent of meeting the programming commitments outlined in the licence. Therefore, while the number of local programmes may reduce slightly as a result of this proposal, the range of programming could potentially increase, with more focus being dedicated to produce local content to meet the needs of the viewers rather than looping content in order to meet programming commitments.
- 3.22 While the changes to the programming output section of the commitments would be amended, Ofcom understands that this is designed to align these sections, as far as possible, for all licensees included in the request to bring consistency and help to support the networking that this proposal seeks to achieve.

⁶ See sections A5.22 and A5.23 of LTVN's submission.

- 3.23 As a result, viewers will not necessarily notice the reduction in the number and range of programmes broadcast which focus on the locality during peak hours. The reductions will instead result in more focus being provided to the items of first-run local programming and news and current affairs programming to ensure that they are tailored for the local audience.
- 3.24 We also note that other licensees (not included in this request) have removed the requirement to broadcast repeats of their local content in peak hours. In Ofcom's view, these requests did not unacceptably reduce the number and range of programmes about the particular area or locality. The Variation Requests put forward by LTVN are similar to those previous cases, which prioritise first-run content over repeated programming within peak hours.
- 3.25 Ofcom's preliminary view, therefore, is that if we were to consent to the departure from the character of service for each licence covered by the Variation Requests, it would not unacceptably reduce the number and range of programming made about the area or locality for which each service is licensed.

Criterion (c): that the departure would not unacceptably reduce the number of programmes made in the area or locality for which the service is licensed

3.26 For the reasons highlighted in the above section, while Ofcom recognises that the number and range of programmes may reduce as a result of the changes requested, we are satisfied that any reduction would not unacceptably reduce the number of programmes made in the area. All programmes made for the purpose of broadcasting on a specific service are made within the approved licensed area of the service and, as such, this Variation Requests does not intend to amend this characteristic.

Criterion (d): that the service would continue to meet the needs of the area of locality for which the service is licensed

- 3.27 LTVN submits that all services included in the Variation Requests would continue to meet the needs of the areas that they serve. The licensees included in the request state that they are confident that viewers will be well served by a variety of programming, often including network programming, and will benefit from Ofcom approving the proposals.
- 3.28 LTVN also believes that, in reducing these commitments, it will allow the licensees to focus their resources on producing high quality first-run local content which represents the most value to their viewers.
- 3.29 Ofcom is provisionally satisfied that, if it were to consent to the departure from the character of service for each licence, each service would continue to meet the needs of its local area by freeing the licensee to provide the necessary focus on the local content that viewers find most valuable. Each licensee included in this request will still be providing a base of local content on their service which would meet the needs of the area or locality. In Ofcom's 2012 statement, we stated that, in order to serve viewers, local TV broadcasters must ensure that at least seven hours of first-run local news and current affairs content about the locality is broadcast on the service. It appears to Ofcom that, were it to consent to this request, the local TV licensees included in this request are likely to continue to meet

this threshold, and therefore each service should continue to meet the needs of the area it serves.

Ofcom's preliminary decision on whether to consent to the departure from the licensed services

3.30 For the reasons listed above, Ofcom's preliminary view is that it is minded to consent to the proposals submitted by LTVN in respect of each of the 17 licences. We are seeking respondents' comments on this preliminary view, and comments on the individual Variation Requests for each of the 17 services. All responses will be considered carefully before reaching our final decisions.

A1. Responding to this consultation

How to respond

- A1.1 Ofcom would like to receive views and comments on the issues raised in this document, by 5pm on 7 August 2019.
- A1.2 You can download a response form from https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-3/local-tv-variations. You can return this by email or post to the address provided in the response form.
- A1.3 If your response is a large file, or has supporting charts, tables or other data, please email it to localtvPCchanges@ofcom.org.uk as an attachment in Microsoft Word format, together with the cover sheet (https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/consultation-response-coversheet). This email address is for this consultation only, and will not be valid after 7 August 2019.

Responses may alternatively be posted to the address below, marked with the title of the consultation:

Local Television Network: Variation Requests on behalf of 17 licensees F.A.O. Tom Connolly Principal, Broadcast Licensing Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

- A1.4 We welcome responses in formats other than print, for example an audio recording or a British Sign Language video. To respond in BSL:
 - Send us a recording of you signing your response. This should be no longer than 5 minutes. Suitable file formats are DVDs, wmv or QuickTime files. Or
 - Upload a video of you signing your response directly to YouTube (or another hosting site) and send us the link.
- A1.5 We will publish a transcript of any audio or video responses we receive (unless your response is confidential)
- A1.6 We do not need a paper copy of your response as well as an electronic version. We will acknowledge receipt if your response is submitted via the online web form, but not otherwise.
- A1.7 You do not have to answer all the questions in the consultation if you do not have a view; a short response on just one point is fine. We also welcome joint responses.
- A1.8 It would be helpful if your response could include direct answers to the questions asked in the consultation document. The questions are listed at Annex 4. It would also help if you could explain why you hold your views, and what you think the effect of Ofcom's proposals would be.

A1.9 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, please contact Tom Connolly on 0207 981 3425 or by email to tom.connolly@ofcom.org.uk.

Confidentiality

- A1.10 Consultations are more effective if we publish the responses before the consultation period closes. In particular, this can help people and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. So, in the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, and because we believe it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other respondents' views, we usually publish all responses on our website, www.ofcom.org.uk, as soon as we receive them.
- A1.11 If you think your response should be kept confidential, please specify which part(s) this applies to, and explain why. Please send any confidential sections as a separate annex. If you want your name, address, other contact details or job title to remain confidential, please provide them only in the cover sheet, so that we don't have to edit your response.
- A1.12 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and try to respect it. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.
- A1.13 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's intellectual property rights are explained further at https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/website/terms-of-use.

Next steps

- A1.14 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish a statement in August 2019.
- A1.15 If you wish, you can register to receive mail updates alerting you to new Ofcom publications; for more details please see https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/email-updates

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.16 Of com aims to make responding to a consultation as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex x.
- A1.17 If you have any comments or suggestions on how we manage our consultations, please email us at consult@ofcom.org.uk. We particularly welcome ideas on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of groups or individuals, such as small businesses and residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.
- A1.18 If you would like to discuss these issues, or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally, please contact the corporation secretary:

Corporation Secretary
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

Email: corporationsecretary@ofcom.org.uk

A2. Ofcom's consultation principles

Ofcom has seven principles that it follows for every public written consultation:

Before the consultation

A2.1 Wherever possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation, to find out whether we are thinking along the right lines. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals, shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

- A2.2 We will be clear about whom we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.
- A2.3 We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible, with a summary of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible for people to give us a written response. If the consultation is complicated, we may provide a short Plain English / Cymraeg Clir guide, to help smaller organisations or individuals who would not otherwise be able to spare the time to share their views.
- A2.4 We will consult for up to ten weeks, depending on the potential impact of our proposals.
- A2.5 A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and aim to reach the largest possible number of people and organisations who may be interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's Consultation Champion is the main person to contact if you have views on the way we run our consultations.
- A2.6 If we are not able to follow any of these seven principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

A2.7 We think it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other people's views, so we usually publish all the responses on our website as soon as we receive them. After the consultation we will make our decisions and publish a statement explaining what we are going to do, and why, showing how respondents' views helped to shape these decisions.

A3. Consultation coversheet

BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title:	
To (Ofcom contact):	
Name of respondent:	
Representing (self or organisation/s):	
Address (if not received by email):	
CONFIDENTIALITY	
Please tick below what part of your response	e you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why
Nothing	
Name/contact details/job title	
Whole response	
Organisation	
Part of the response	
If there is no separate annex, which parts?	
still publish a reference to the contents of your general summary that does not disclose the	e or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom our response (including, for any confidential parts, a specific information or enable you to be identified)?
DECLARATION	
that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying publish all responses, including those which	with this cover sheet is a formal consultation responseing this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal nail, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about its.
·	t. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in ur response only once the consultation has ended,
Name Sign	ed (if hard copy)

A4. Consultation questions

- A4.1 Ofcom is seeking views on all the amendments to the programming commitments listed in Annex 5. Ofcom may only consent to a departure from the character of the licensed services if Ofcom is satisfied that all of the criteria in section 19(3B) of the Broadcast Act 1996 would be met. These criteria are set out in section 2.15 of this document.
- A4.2 In light of the considerations set out in section three of this document, Ofcom are minded to provide consent to a departure from each of the characters of service for the licences included in this request.

Question 1:

Respondents are invited to comment on whether they agree with Ofcom's preliminary view and are asked to frame their views and responses with reference to, or in the context of, the statutory criteria in section 19(3B) of the Broadcast Act 1996 (see paragraph 2.7 of this consultation).

A5. LTVN's Variation Request and programming commitments for all 17 services included in the request

The information below was provided by LTVN in its submission of the Variation Request:

- A5.1 This submission is made by groups representing 17 local TV services licensed by Ofcom. The submission seeks Ofcom's consent for changes to the programming commitments contained within these licences in order to facilitate further collaboration between service providers.
- A5.2 The operators of the licences are reviewing opportunities to put in place joint audience measurement, national advertising and a quasi-network schedule (a 'spine') alongside their local programming.
- A5.3 This proposal maintains news and current affairs programming as a condition of all licences (including in evenings), with larger cities required to provide the greatest quantity. This is consistent with the Government's vision when establishing local TV as set out by the former Secretary of State, Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, who told the Royal Television Society in September 2010: "My vision is of a landscape of local TV services broadcasting for as little as one hour a day: free to affiliate to one another, formally or informally, in a way that brings down costs; free to offer nationwide deals to national advertisers...."
- A5.4 The proposed changes are intended to ensure that the programming commitments contained in each local TV licence are clear, proportionate and targeted, enabling the Licensees to:
 - focus resources on the local content of most value to viewers;
 - remove requirements for high repetition to allow for a variety of more attractive programming to benefit viewers and optimise commercial revenues; and
 - ensure that the core public purposes which underpin each local TV licence are duly protected.
- A5.5 The Licensees believe that the proposed changes are wholly consistent with the licensing framework and important to enable them to meet the needs of their local areas as the broadcasting ecology continues to evolve.

Introduction

- A5.6 This submission is made to the Office of Communications ("**Ofcom**") jointly by the holders of 17 local digital television programme ('**local TV**") services.
- A5.7 The local TV service providers who are signatories to this submission hold the licences listed in Table 1 below (individually a "Licensee" and collectively the "Licensees"). Each of the Licensees broadcasts free-to-air on digital terrestrial television ("DTT").

A5.8 Each of the local TV licences held by the Licensees has been categorised as "Small', 'Medium' or 'Large', principally with a view to reflecting the size of the main town or city identified as being served by Ofcom in its invitation to apply ("ITA") for each licence.

Table 1: Licensee signatories to this submission

Small city	Licensed area	Service
	Basingstoke	That's TV
	Carlisle	That's TV
	Grimsby	That's TV
	Guildford	That's TV
	Norwich	That's TV
	Reading	That's TV
	Salisbury	That's TV
	Scarborough	That's TV
	Swansea	That's TV
Medium city	Licensed area	Service
	Belfast	NvTV
	Edinburgh	That's TV
	Glasgow	That's TV
	Nottingham	Notts TV
	Oxford	That's TV
	Preston	That's TV
	Southampton	That's TV
Large city	Licensed area	Service
	Manchester	That's TV

A5.9 The Licensees are requesting that Ofcom consents to changes to the programming requirements currently contained in 'Annex A' in each of their local TV licences (the "programming commitments"). The specific licence variations requested by each Licensee are marked in red font in the annex to this submission (the "Variation Requests").

Developing a network

- A5.10 Commercially funded providers of public service television in the UK have traditionally used general entertainment programming to cross-subsidise their public service programming.

 Ofcom has periodically reviewed public service television licences, assessing the balance between the costs and benefits attributable to holding these licences.
- A5.11 The Licensees believe that, by collaborating with each other and with others, they will be able to start to deliver the benefits of a quasi-network infrastructure, including audience measurement and national advertising, as envisaged by the Government when it put in place the licensing framework for local TV.

Invitation to apply

- A5.12 The ITA for the first phase of local TV licences, published by Ofcom on 10 May 2012, indicated how Ofcom expected local TV licensees to measure their delivery of local news and current affairs hours. Ofcom stated that it did not expect local TV licensees (paragraph 3.29): "...to produce an hour of continuous original news content per day." As an example, Ofcom indicated that a relevant local "fifteen minute news bulletin, repeated four times in a day" could "count as an hour of broadcast news."
- A5.13 Section 2 of this ITA required applications for each local TV licence to be made on a "standalone" basis, discounting the potential (for the purposes of the application) for common ownership with other local TV services elsewhere.
- A5.14 Ofcom has now licensed 34 local TV services, typically providing a mix of local news and information led programming alongside other (e.g. acquired or syndicated) programming. The Licensees are exploring opportunities to start to work together more closely in the provision of network programming to serve their audiences. However, the differences in programming commitments between Licensees is currently regarded as an impediment to the successful establishment of a new network infrastructure.

Principal purpose of the Variation Requests

- A5.15 The Licensees are seeking to underpin their local content delivery by structuring it within a quasi-network schedule, diversifying their income by generating national advertising revenue (elaborated upon in section 6 below). This is consistent with the model for local TV established in a number of overseas territories which mix local and network programming.
- A5.16 The Licensees are further seeking to amend their programming commitments to:
 - standardise terminology where deemed appropriate to enhance licence consistency;
 - minimise tautology; and

⁷https://www.ofcom.org.uk/ data/assets/pdf file/0020/93224/Phase 1 invitation to Apply for an L-DTPS Licence.pdf

- enhance general clarity and reduce prescriptiveness in qualitative licence requirements (the 'output' section of the programming commitments).
- Development of a local TV collaborative 'spine'
- A5.17 In December 2010 the Government's adviser, Nicholas Shott, wrote to the then Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport:
 - "...although research points to consumer demand for local content, it is substantially for news or news-type programming....maintaining audiences at viable levels for lengthy periods will be challenging.... to help to meet those challenges local TV services will have to cooperate with one another to form a national 'backbone'. The purpose of this backbone will be to provide programming to augment the schedules of the local TV services; to eliminate duplication of local TV services' costs wherever possible, by sharing; to promote the generic concept of local TV services; and, crucially, to maximise national advertising revenues... a prominent position on the EPG will be very important." (emphasis added)
- A5.18 Fifteen of the Licensees are ultimately owned by That's Media Limited which is advancing plans for a 'backbone' or 'spine' across the local TV services under its control. In addition, some local TV services which are not under common ownership are reviewing the opportunity to establish their own quasi-network delivering shared programming.
- A5.19 This is consistent with the Government's vision set out in its December 2011 policy statement, Local TV: Making The Vision Happen, which called for local TV services to work together to "increase potential revenue opportunities: including sharing, commissioning or purchasing content; and operating as a cohort rather than on an individual basis." (emphasis added)
- A5.20 The Licensees have concluded that it will be challenging for any quasi-network to achieve its full potential if many local TV service providers are unable to materially align their local programming hours (enabling them to generally exploit 'spine' content together). The Licensees now seek, through the Variation Requests, to maintain the principal purposes of their respective services whilst putting in place the necessary foundations to achieve the vision, espoused by Government, of formal and informal collaborations to support local TV service provision.

Character of services

- A5.21 The Licensees are committed to delivering community news, features and information on DTT and, increasingly in the future, on other digital platforms. A substantial number of former local TV reporters have received industry recognition for their journalism. Many have gone on to work with national networks. A number have been nominated for awards. Every year, the Licensees bring hundreds of community stories to their DTT viewers. Community groups and charities frequently comment on the favourable responses that they have received after being featured on local TV.
- A5.22 The Licensees believe that Ofcom's principal concern, when granting local TV licences, was to secure sustainable services providing local news and current affairs. The Licensees argue that protecting a minimum quantity of this content is of particular importance in order to maintain the substantive character of their services of most value to viewers.

A5.23 All Licensees propose to continue to provide a variety of local content (e.g. harder news and softer features) to reflect local life and the interests and concerns of local people, ensuring that the principal purpose of each licensed service is duly protected.

Local programming hours

A5.24 The Licensees propose, under the Variation Requests, to deliver no less than the aggregate local programming hours set out in Table 2 below (based on 'slot times' interpreted in a manner consistent with the preamble to all programming commitments).

Table 2: Proposed Licensee typical local programming hours

	Small	Medium	Large
Hours of local	At least 1 hour per	At least 1.25 hours	At least 3.5 hours per
programming	day	per day	day
Hours of local	At least 30 mins.	At least 45 mins. per	At least 1.75 hours per
programming in	per day	day	day
peak (18:00-22.30)			
Hours of local news	At least 1 hour per	At least 1 hour per	At least 1.5 hours per
& current affairs	day	day	day

- N.B. The above hours measured as averages across a typical week
- A5.25 The Licensees believe that the principal demand from their DTT viewers is for a general entertainment channel incorporating news and information together with some features. The Licensees believe that the size of a town or city reflects, at least in part, the quantity of people, businesses, community organisations and activities that there are to cater for and cover and, consequently, is a reasonable proxy for the quantity of local programming required to maintain a service's 'local' characteristics effectively.
- A5.26 A number of Licensees expect to exceed these minimum hours, including by sometimes showcasing local productions and making programmes which may be broadcast on other local TV services. It is intended that repeats of local TV programmes, generally deemed by the Licensees to be less attractive to viewers or contribute as highly to public value, will be broadcast at Licensee discretion.

Licensing framework

- A5.27 The Licensees understand that detailed programming commitments in the form enshrined in many local TV licences are not a requirement of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended) (the "Act").
- A5.28 Section 19 of the Act requires Ofcom to include such programming conditions in a local TV licence "as appear to Ofcom to be appropriate". Ofcom has discretion as to the form and

- detail that such conditions must take and, notably, is not required to impose content conditions that it determines to be inappropriate, obsolete or otherwise failing to serve the best interests of viewers.
- A5.29 The Licensees believe that the increasing popularity of video-on-demand services, some of which are global in their appeal, enhances the importance of broadcast licence commitments being proportionate and targeted. The Licensees expect Ofcom to focus on protecting a minimum quantum of local programming hours, and not to require the provision of high amounts of repeats or 'looped' content which risks undermining the viability of the overall network i.e. to a level that is inappropriate and therefore incompatible with the Act.

Character of service

- A5.30 The Licensees expect Ofcom to consider the Variation Requests in a manner that is consistent with its general duties and its duties under the Act. In particular, the Licensees believe that it would be unreasonable for Ofcom to conclude that approving the Variation Requests would "substantially alter the character" of any licences (incompatible with Section 19(3B)(a) of the Act).
- A5.31 When considering the statutory framework, the Licensees recognise that the substantial "character" of a service is a qualitative (rather than quantitative) measure. The Licensees believe that the regulatory framework is intended to protect the underlying purpose of each local TV licence, granting Ofcom discretion to protect the core content which it deems to be of particular substance and relevance to viewers.
- A5.32 The Licensees have reviewed the 'output' section of the programming commitments of each of their services with a view to ensuring that these encapsulate their intended core character. In order to ensure that this character is duly protected, the Licensees have given consideration to the overall quantity of local hours (including news hours) that would be appropriate to fulfil these qualitative requirements in each licence area. In doing this, the Licensees have taken account of the size and nature of each market served.
- A5.33 The Licensees argue that the main substance of their services' character is the provision of news and current affairs programming. The Licensees expect Ofcom to prioritise the delivery of this programming to optimise public value. The Licensees would consider it unreasonable for Ofcom to determine that certain local programming (such as looped videos and/or automated on-screen text) make such a contribution to public value that they fully secure the principal purposes of local TV. The Licensees may provide other content as part of an overall programming mix alongside news and current affairs.
- A5.34 All Licensees are offering to normally schedule news at least five evenings per week, ensuring that this core element of their service remains in place. The Licensees intend that viewers seeking relevant news (including sub-genres such as information and features) will be duly served if the Variation Requests are approved and the underlying purpose (or "character") of each licenced service will therefore be substantially unaltered.

The number and range of programmes made in and about the area

- A5.35 The Act requires that any amendment to a local TV licence must not "unacceptably reduce the number and range of programmes about the area or locality" or "unacceptably reduce the number and range of programmes made in the area or locality" (Section 19(3B)(b) and (c) respectively of the Act).
- A5.36 The Licensees believe that there is no good reason to suggest that the Variation Requests would "unacceptably" reduce local content. The Licensees plan to deliver local content, of particular value to viewers, in accordance with reasonable minimum qualitative and quantitative requirements (the latter taking due account of the size and nature of each core area targeted).

The needs of the area or locality

- A5.37 The Act requires Ofcom to ensure that any consent to vary a local TV service is only granted if it is satisfied "that the service would continue to meet the needs of the area or locality" (Section 19(3B)(d) of the Act).
- A5.38 The Licensees have taken account of the size and nature of each licensed area (and the number of people, events and stories to be generally expected within that area) with a view to serving the needs of each locality.
- A5.39 The Licensees have also been mindful of the quantity of local programming which the Government itself indicated would be sufficient to satisfy local needs when the local TV policy was announced. As the former Secretary of State, Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, told the Royal Television Society in September 2010: "But nowhere in the US, Canada, or anywhere else have I been able to find a broadcaster able to make 24-hour local content commercially viable. So we should be realistic it is not likely to happen here either.... My vision is of a landscape of local TV services broadcasting for as little as one hour a day: free to affiliate to one another, formally or informally, in a way that brings down costs; free to offer nationwide deals to national advertisers; able to piggyback existing national networks, attracting new audiences and benefitting from inherited ones...." (emphasis added)
- A5.40 The Variation Requests maintain local news and current affairs, described as the "most important" type of local programming in each ITA. Local news will be provided in accordance with Ofcom's local news guidance, and include coverage of a diverse range of people and places. The Licensees are generally seeking to schedule local programming alongside a shared programming 'spine' to help maximise its audience, reduce repetition and enhance the variety of programming enjoyed by DTT viewers.
- A5.41 The Licensees believe that local TV services should provide a voice to local people to raise issues and concerns. The Licensees believe that generally focusing licence commitments on the programming which underpins the public purpose of local TV including community news and information will enable them to be even more focused on meeting viewer needs (as opposed to satisfying regulatory quotas).

Conclusion

- A5.42 In the view of the Licensees, Ofcom has a track record of acting in a balanced manner in the licensing of television and radio and consequently securing a sustainable level of public service content (often alongside networked entertainment). The Licensees expect Ofcom to similarly regulate the local TV sector in a proportionate and targeted manner and, especially, not to be preoccupied with scheduling detail that it does not generally impose on other categories of broadcast licence.
- A5.43 The Licensees contend that, once delivering a base of local programming, the incremental benefit of each additional hour of local programming is marginal. This is particularly the case in peak times where many viewers plan to consume a mix of news and other entertainment programming.
- A5.44 The Licensees are confident that viewers will be well served by a variety of programming, often including network programming, and therefore benefit from Ofcom approving the Variation Requests. The Licensees believe that it is important that Ofcom enables all local TV services to have reasonable flexibility to develop business models which (taking due account of the size of local markets and their financial potential):
 - focus resources on the local programming of most value to viewers, in particular safeguarding a reasonable minimum quantum of news and current affairs provision;
 and
 - fulfil the intentions of the Government's local TV framework which sought, inter alia, to
 promote (and not impede) sustainable local TV services by encouraging licensees to
 cooperate in the establishment of a network programming 'spine' delivering attractive
 programming to viewers (maximising ratings to support commercial revenue
 optimisation).
- A5.45 Ofcom is aware that the broadcasting ecology and wider media sector is evolving. In its Annual Plan 2019/20, Ofcom stated: "the market is challenging, particularly for local TV". The Licensees trust that Ofcom is sincere about seeking to secure the success of the local TV sector. The Licenses believe that it is important that Ofcom approves the Variation Requests to promote the ability of the Licensees to deliver sustainable services in accordance with the Government's stated aims and objectives when establishing the licensing framework.

Submitted by the Licensees' set out in the Annex.

18 April 2019

The tables listed below are the programming commitments for each licence. Commitments in red text highlight where each licensee has requested changes to their commitments.

Variation Request 1

Basingstoke local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitments	for That's TV – p	proposed	
Programming output	A general entertainment	service that will:	
	working in the local news ₇ (inc	ect the interests and con Licensed Area and have a c. sub-genres such as feat e area, current affairs, sp	a strong emphasis on tures reflecting life in
	• cover -report of hockey;	n local sports such as foo	tball, rugby and ice
	 provide substantial weekly current affairs content; 		
		nities for members of the	•
	· ·	cal voluntary and busines promoting their events;	s sectors by featuring
	· · · · ·	ude youth / student targe e community (including ye	
	 broadcast an annual charity appeal and frequently highlight social / community issues and charitable causes; 		
	 target a broad audience with a mix of content which will sometimes include coverage of matters of general interest such as religion, arts and entertainment. 		
	programmes specific to tarea). For the avoidance	tables to 'local' program the Licensed Area (produ of doubt, these totals ar rst made for other Licens	ced in or relevant to the e not inclusive of
	The service will normally	schedule news at least 5	evenings per week.
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	15 hours per week	15 hours per week	15- 7.5 hours per week
Repeats:	None	None	None
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	10 hours per week	10 hours per week	10- 5 hours per week
Repeats:	None	None	None
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	13.5 hours per week (including local news-	13.5 hours per week (including local news-	13.5-7 hours per week (including local news-

	led magazine weekday evenings)	led magazine weekday evenings)	led magazine weekday evenings)
Repeats:	None	None	None

Belfast local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitments N	vTv – proposed		
Programming output	The service will+reflect t	the concerns and interest	ts of people who live or
		Licensed Area and includ	
	weather and ir community fee business and fee human-interes a mix of conte general interes content.	nformation); atures; actual content; st stories and lifestyle con nt which will sometimes st such as arts, culture, m	include matters of nusic, and entertainment
	The service will normally	/ schedule news at least !	6 evenings per week.
	programme, Melinclude a weel programme, 3 location and ir The local news (Monday-Saturews roundup 3. Local news provision at left local news programmes xelements in duration (air in year 2); Include a moning duration (air year 2); Include theme affairs elements programming via a programmes well neclude studio	will be repeated twice trday). On Sunday there variable. On Sunday there variable. This local news provision will include Irislast once per month. This business programme, 30 minutes in duration. The surface of six programme for a series of six programming for a series of six programming which was to supplied to supplie the supplied to supplied the supplied the supplied to supplied the supplied to supplied the supplied th	ity news and stories . This will be filmed on hroughout the day vill be a local community on will increase in Years 2- h language news e series, including (aiming for a series of six amme series, 30 minutes rogrammes x 3 per annum till contain news/current d documentaries. This by partners of the service entaries containing
	lifestyle;	urrent affairs as well as ho news programming. This	uman-interest stories and programming be a
	mixture of arts	s, culture, music, studio c	liscussion, popular
	 Both original a The Licensee v years 1 and 2, will be a comn 	and citizen generated cond programme bank ma- will aim broadcast from nand from 8.00am until manuity notice board and conday.	terial will be repeated; nidday to midnight in nidnight in year 3. There
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	10 hours per week	11 hours per week	13-8.75 hours per week
Repeats:	5 hours per week	5 hours per week	5 hours per week Nil

Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	8 hours per week	8 hours per week	9-5.25 hours per week
Repeats:	3 hours per week	3 hours per week	3 hours per week Nil
•	Voca 1	Voca 2	Voor 2 onwords
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	5 hours per week	5.5 hours per week	6-7 hours per week
	3 hours per week	3 hours per week	3 hours per week Nil
Repeats:			

Carlisle local TV licence variation request

Programming output	A general entertainme	nt service which will:		
	 frequently re 	flect the interests and cor	ncerns of people living or	
	 have a strong 	g emphasis on local news on, weather and features r		
	 provide a platform for people to raise issues and concerns local debate / discussion; 			
	encourage m feature in cor	embers of the community	to be involved and / or	
	highlight viewer / community issues;-			
	 duly support and / or activ 	the local voluntary sector	by covering local events	
		h / student content or fea unity (including youth / st	ntures-reflect the diversity udents);	
		of content which will son		
	The commitments in the tables to 'local' programming hours relate to			
	area). For the avoidance	o the Licensed Area (produce of doubt, these totals a le for other Licensed Area exceeded.	re not inclusive of 'shared	
	The service will normal	lly schedule news at least	5 evenings per week.	
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	11 hours per week	11-7 hours per week	11-7 hours per week	
	None			
Repeats:	None	None	None	
Repeats: Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	None Year 2	None Year 3 onwards	
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)				
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30) First run:	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
Hours of local programming per week in	Year 1 10 hours per week	Year 2 10-5 hours per week	Year 3 onwards 10-5 hours per week	
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30) First run: Repeats: Hours and scheduling of local news and	Year 1 10 hours per week None	Year 2 10-5 hours per week None	Year 3 onwards 10-5 hours per week None	

Edinburgh local TV licence variation request

Programming output	 be live, reflecting every aspect of life and reflect the interests and concerns of people who live or work in and around the Licensed Area in the city and providing local choice; be broadcast for at least 28 hours per week during peak time with at least 16 hours per week of local programming produced in the area; include a core news service for the Licensed Area (inc. subgenres such as weather and information) that covers breaking and developing stories, current affairs, business and financial life, culture and the arts, sport and community stories; include a variety of non-news programming including current arrairs, mix of content of general interest such as lifestyle, arts & culture and community features; reflect the diversity of the community; include material produced by in association with or featuring community groups / educational institutions / the voluntary sector such as our partner Edinburgh Napier University; normally include news bulletins seven at least five evenings per days a week and a news review at weekends. 			
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	16 hours per week	16 hours per week	16 -8.75 hours per week	
Repeats:	12 hours per week	12 hours per week	12 hours per week-Nil	
Hours of local programming per week in	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
peak-time (18.00-22.30)	16 hours per week	9 hours per week	9-5.25 hours per week	
First run: Repeats:	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	10 hours per week	10 hours per week	10-7 hours per week	
	Mon-Fri:			
	3 x 30 minute bulletins, 1 x 5 minute bulletin per day;			
	3 x 30 minutes per week of current affairs programming.			

	Sat-Sun: 4 x 5 minute bulletins per day.		
Repeats:	4 hours per week	4 hours per week	4 hours per week-Nil

Glasgow local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitments for That's TV – proposed				
Programming output	 The service will be based around-include news, (inc. sub-genres such as current affairs, and community programming sport, arts and culture, business, weather and information). Programming will be in a live format, changing daily to reflect life-reflect the interests and concerns of people living or working in and around the Licensed Area. This will often be a positive representation of the Licensed Area showcasing its community activities. The service will include breaking news, weather, sport, arts & culture, business updates, community information, current affairs and audience interactivity. The service will reflect Glasgow's multi-cultural profile and diversityincluding one hour per week in a language other than English with English subtitles. The service will facilitate local community groups creating their own-contributing to or featuring in content for broadcast including through partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University. The service will also encourage origination by third parties and will broadcast content created by in association with and / or featuring other educational, arts & and / or community organisations. The service will normally include news bulletins seven days a at least five evenings per week and a news review at weekends. 			
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	28 hours per week	28 hours per week	28-14 hours per week	
Repeats:	7 hours per week	7 hours per week	7 5 hours per week Nil	
Hours of local programming per week in	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
peak-time (18.00-22.30)	21 hours per week	14 hours per week	14-7 hours per week	
First run:	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Repeats:				
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	12 hours per week	12 hours per week	12-7 hours per week	
	Mon-Fri:			
	4 x 15 minute bulletins per day;			
	1 x 60 minute news programme per day.			

	Sat-Sun: 3 x 5 minute bulletins per day. Mon-Sun:		
	Twice weekly 2 x 45 minutes current affairs programming.		
Repeats:	1hr 30mins per week	1hr 30mins per week	1hr 30mins hours per week -Nil

Grimsby local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitments for	or That's TV – prop	osed		
Programming output	The service will reflect t work in and around the	he interests and concern Licensed Area and will:	s of people who live or	
	 include local news (inc. sub-genres such as sport, community information, current affairs, weather and features); encourage members of the community to be involved in or feature in content; and include a mix of content which will sometimes include matters of general interest such as health, lifestyle, history, arts, entertainment and events. 			
	This is a mixed genre tel 5,800 hours of program local programme mater	ial will always make up tl	nclude a minimum of oduced programming and ne majority of the	
	service's output. No less than two-thirds of the schedule (66%) will consist of locally-made and local programme material. Of this, a minimum of 365 hours will be locally-produced news and current affairs. A minimum of 10% of programming will be purchased from local independent production companies.			
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	5 hours per week	7.5 hours per week	10 7 hours per week	
Repeats:	100 hours per week	75 hours per week	75 hours per week-Nil	
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1 3 hours per week	Year 2 7 hours per week	Year 3 onwards 7-3.5 hours per week	
First run: Repeats:	21 hours per week	14 hours per week	14 hours per week Nil	
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	Mon-Fri:	Mon-Fri:	Mon-Fri:	
	(Once per day unless stated otherwise.)	(Once per day unless stated otherwise.)	(Once per day unless stated otherwise.)	
	1 x 5 minute breakfast bulletin;	1 x 5 minute breakfast bulletin;	1 x 5 minute breakfast bulletin;	
	1 x c minute mid- morning bulletin;	1 x 5 minute mid- morning bulletin;	1 x 5 minute mid- morning bulletin;	
	1 x 15 minute early evening news.	1 x 30 minute early evening news;	1 x 5 minute lunchtime bulletin;	

		1 x 15 minute late evening news.	1 x 30 minute early evening news; 1 x 15 minute late evening news. 7 hours per week
	Mon-Fri:	Mon-Fri:	Mon Fri:
	7 x 5 minute bulletins per day;	7 x 5 minute bulletins per day;	7 x 5 minute bulletins per day;
Repeats:	4 x 15 minute bulletins per day	4 x 30 minute bulletins per day	4 x 30 minute bulletins per day
	Sat-Sun:	Sat-Sun:	Sat Sun:
	4 x 50 minute early evening news and/or bulletins per weekend.	10 x 30 minute early evening news bulletins per day.	10 x 30 minute early evening news bulletins per day.
			Nil

Guildford local TV licence variation request

Dragramming output	A ganaral antartainma	ent convice which will:		
Programming output	 A general entertainment service which will: frequently reflect the interests and concerns of people living or working in the Licensed Area and have a strong emphasis on local news, (inc. sub-genres such as features reflecting life in and around the locality, current affairs, weather sport and information); 			
		atform for people to raise is cussion with weekly curren		
		unities for members of the nd / or feature in content-;		
		dcasts from local events ar d business sectors by cove	, ,,	
	 frequently include youth / student content or features reflect the diversity of the community (including youth / students); 			
	 include social action and frequently highlight social / community issues; 			
		x of content which will som f general interest such as ront.		
	programmes specific t	he tables to 'local' program o the Licensed Area (produ ce of doubt, these totals ar de for other Licensed Areas	red in or relevant to the re not inclusive of 'shared'	
	The service will norma	lly schedule news at least f	five evenings per week.	
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	15 hours per week	15- 7.5 hours per week	15-7.5 hours per week	
Repeats:	None	None	None	
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	10 hours per week	10 -5 hours per week	10-5 hours per week	
Repeats:	None	None	None	
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	

First run:	13.5 hours per week	13.5-7 hours per week	13.5-7 hours per week
	(to include a	(to include a	(to include a
	substantial	substantial proportion	substantial proportion
	proportion in peak)	in peak)	in peak)
Repeats:	None	None	None
Repeats:	, , ,	' '	' '

Manchester local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitm	nents for That's T\	/ – proposed			
Programming output	 The service will deliver news (inc. sub-genres such as sport, weather features, current affairs, information and views). It will be about Greater Manchester through the eyes of its people in all its richness and diversity. The service will:				
	 reflect the interests and concerns of persons living or working in and around the Licensed Area; involve people in making television as well as watching it; deliver entertainment / arts features; hold decision makers to account; offer opportunities to job seekers, those wanting new skills, youth or those exploring looking under the surface of a great cultural and energetic City-location to express themselves; be created for and with feature people from different walks of life; have a fluid format which will react to people and reflect their views and opinions; be diverse and challenging reflect the diversity of people in the area (including ethnicity and different age groups); be substantially live and frequently be energetic, interactive, engaging, informative, accessible and community-focused. The service will normally schedule news at least 5 evenings per week and a news review at weekends.				
Hours of local programming per day/week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards		
First run:	52.5 hours per week	49 hours per week	49-24.5 hours per week		
Repeats:	52.5 hours per week	35.25 hours per week	35.25 hours per week Nil		
Hours of local programming per day/week in peak-time (18.00- 22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards		
First run:	17.5 hours per week	17.5 hours per week	17.5 -12.25 hours per week		
Repeats:	Nil	Nil	Nil		

Hours and scheduling of local news	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
and current affairs programming			
	31 hours per week (inc. 2	22.5 hours per week	22.5 -11.25 hours per
	hours at weekends) of	(inc. 2 hours at	week (inc. 2 hours at
	which 6 hours in	weekends) of which 6	weekends) of which 6
First run:	evenings	hours in evenings	hours in evenings
	5.75 hours per week	14.25 hours per week	14.25 hours per week Nil
Repeats:			

Norwich local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitments fo	or That's TV – propo	sed		
Programming output	The service will:			
	 frequently be in working in the 	nformative , local and relev Licensed Area;	vant to people living or	
	 include substantial local news and current affairs (inc. subgenres such as current affairs, features reflecting life in and around the area, information and weather); 			
	appeal to the tastes and interests of a diverse local pop			
	• support the dev	velopment of local creativ	e talent;	
	 encourage viewers to raise issues and interact with programming provide a platform for people to raise issues concerns; 			
		ousinesses, and include co is based events and / or a		
	 engage with local communities by developing initiatives cultivate relationships with and cover the activities of businesses, charities, community bodies, public sector organisations, academic institutions and / or those representations of local society. 			
	The service will evenings per w	normally include news bu	ulletins at least 5 days	
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	11 hours, 15 minutes per week	11 hours, 15 minutes per week, including 170 minutes per week of a local magazine programme	7 hours per week	
Repeats:	3 hours per week	3 hours per week	5 hours per week None	
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	10 hours per week	10 hours per week	7–3.5 hours per week	
Repeats:	3 hours per week	3 hours per week	4 hours per week None	
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	Mon-Fri:	Mon-Fri:	Mon-Fri:	
	6 x 15 minute live bulletins per day plus breaking news updates	90 minutes of news and current affairs programming per day	7 hours per week	

	on an automated service. Mon-Sun: 1 x 45 minute current affairs magazine programme per week.	plus breaking news updates on an automated service. Mon-Sun: 30 minutes per week to focus on a current affairs issue	
Repeats:	No news repeats. 1 x repeat of 45 minute current affairs magazine programme.	Repeat of the 30 mins/week current affairs programme	1 hour per week (inc. 0.5 hours at weekends) None

Nottingham local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitments for	or Notts TV – prop	osed		
Programming output	• The service will norma	ally be broadcast 7 days a	a week (on DTT) .	
	The service will include content of direct-relevance to people living, working and / or studying in and around the Licensed Area frequently reflecting the diversity of the area.			
	◆ The service will cover programmes.	both local news and a br	road range of general	
		out to and involve a net o d community organisation	•	
	focus of the programme	rst run general programm e schedule between 1700 eral programming will not	and 2230 (that is not to	
	 News programming included in the service will be journalism led and have a broad agenda, covering topics such as politics, business, sport, consumer news, the arts culture and / or events, information and weather and travel. 			
	The Licensee will provide a platform for people to raise issues and concerns produce regular current affairs debate programmes .			
	topics such as arts / ent	de general interest featur tertainment, programmir e and other coverage of r nunity activities, shoppin	nusic / theatre, sport,	
	The service will norma	ally schedule news at leas	st 5 evenings per week.	
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	17.5 hours per week	20 hours per week	20- 10 hours per week	
Repeats:	24.5 hours per week	85 hours per week	50 hours per week None	
Hours of local programming per week in	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
peak-time (18.00-22.30)	14 hours per week	16.5 hours per week	14-7 hours per week	
First run: Repeats:	10.5 hours per week	8 hours per week	8 hours per week-None	

Hours and scheduling of local news and	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
current affairs programming			
First run:	Mon-Fri:	Mon-Fri:	Mon-Fri:
	3 x 30 minute bulletins per day.	3 x 30 minute bulletins per day.	2 x 60 minute bulletins per day.
	Sat-Sun:	Sat-Sun:	Sat Sun:
	3 x 15 minute bulletins per day.	3 x 15 minute bulletins per day.	1 x 15 minute bulletin per day.
	Mon-Fri:	Mon-Fri:	7 hours per week
	IVIOTI-FIT.	IVIOII-FII.	WOII-FII.
Repeats:	1 x 30 minute evening bulletin per day.	2 x 30 minute evening bulletin per day.	1 x 60-minute evening bulletin per day.
	Sat-Sun:	Sat-Sun:	Sat-Sun:
	1 x 15 minutes per day.	2 x 15 minutes per day	None

Oxford local TV licence variation request

Programming output	 reflect life in the interests and concerns of persons living / working in and around the Licensed Area with a strong emphasis on local news (to include sub-genres such as features, current affairs, sport, weather and information); provide a platform for people to raise issues and concerns current affairs including local debate / discussion and champion local causes; offer opportunities for members of the community to become involved in and / or feature in content the making of programming and engage with the local community through a network of trained citizen broadcasters developed in association with strategic partners; include broadcasts from key local events and-support the charity and business sectors of the community by covering their events and / or activities; include substantial locally-produced and locally-relevant news; frequently include non-news and-reflect the diversity of the community including youth / students -targeted programming. 			
Hours of local programming per	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
week	35 hours per week	35 hours per week	35-17.5 hours per week	
First run: Repeats:	16 hours per week	2.5 hours per week	2.5 hours per week-Nil	
Hours of local programming per	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
week in peak-time (18.00-22.30) First run:	14 hours per week	14 hours per week	14-8.75 hours per week	
Repeats:	2 hours per week	Nil	Nil	
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	17.5 hours per week (inc. 2 hours at weekends) of which 5 hours per week in peak	17.5 hours per week (inc. 2 hours at weekends) of which 5 hours per week in peak	17.5-8.75 hours per week (inc. 2 hour at weekends) of which 5 hours per week in peak	
Repeats:	2.5 hours per week	2.5 hours per week	2.5 hours per week-Nil	

The licensee is not permitted in peak time to schedule teleshopping windows defined as television broadcast direct offers (with a minimum uninterrupted duration of 15 minutes) for the supply of goods and services, including immovable property rights and obligations, in return for payment. For the avoidance of doubt, teleshopping windows also include direct offers, in return for payment, for gaming and betting (as defined in the Gambling Act 2005) and spread betting

Preston local TV licence Variation Request

Programming Commitm	ents for That's TV	– proposed		
Programming output	 deliver news (inc. sub-genres such as sport, weather features, current affairs, information and views); reflect the interests and concerns of persons living / working in and around the Licensed Area; give insights into the Licensed Area and what it has to offer; involve local people, featuring them in content-making television; include entertainment / arts features; hold decision makers to account; offer opportunities to job seekers, those wanting new skills, and youth; be created with and for people from different walks of life; have a fluid format which will react to people and reflect their views and opinions; be diverse and challenging, providing reflect the diversity of the community (including youth / students) and provide opportunities for the audience to interact with the service raise issues and concerns; frequently be energetic, interactive, engaging, informative, accessible and community-focused. The service will normally schedule news at least 5 evenings per week.			
Hours of local programming per day/week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	35.5 hours per week	35.5 hours per week	35.5 -17.75 hours per week	
Repeats:	79.5 hours per week	48.75 hours per week	48.75 hours per week-Nil	
Hours of local programming per day/week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	7 hours per week	7 hours per week	7 hours per week	
Repeats:	10 hours per week	7 hours per week	7 hours per week- Nil	
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	22 hours per week (inc. 2 hours at weekends) of which 7 hours in evenings	17.5 hours per week (inc. 2 hours at weekends) of which 7 hours in evenings	17.5-8.75 hours per week (inc. 2 hours at weekends) of which 7 hours in evenings	

	1.5 hours per week	6 hours per week	6 hours per week
			Nil
Repeats:			

This addendum forms part of the Annex to the Licence

The licensee is not permitted in peak-time to schedule teleshopping (defined as television-broadcast direct offers for the supply of goods and services, including immovable property rights and obligations, in return for payment). For the avoidance of doubt, teleshopping also includes direct offers, in return for payment, for gaming and betting (as defined in the Gambling Act 2005) and spread betting.

Reading local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitments for That's TV – proposed				
Programming output	A general entertainme	ent service which will:		
	 frequently reflect the interests and concerns of people living working in the Licensed Area and have a strong emphasis on local news, (inc. sub-genres such as current affairs, features reflecting life in and around the locality, weather, sport and information); 			
	 provide substantial weekly sports content during the football season including news feetung fc; 			
	 provide a platform for people to raise issues and concerns local debate / discussion with substantial weekly current affairs content; 			
	 offer opportunities for members of the community to become involved in and / or feature in content and as citizen contributors; 			
	 include broadcasts from local events and duly support the local voluntary and business sectors by promoting covering local events and / or activities; frequently include youth / student targeted content or features reflect the diversity of the community (including youth / students); broadcast an annual charity appeal and frequently highlight social / community issues / charitable causes; target a broad audience with a mix of content which will sometimes include coverage of matters of general interest such as religion, arts and entertainment. 			
	The commitments in the tables to 'local' programming hours relate to programmes specific to the Licensed Area (produced in or relevant to the area). For the avoidance of doubt, these totals are not inclusive of 'shared' programmes (first made for other Licensed Areas). The service will normally schedule news at least 5 evenings per week.			
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	15 hours per week	15 hours per week	15- 7.5 hours per week	
Repeats:	None	None	None	
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards	
First run:	10 hours per week	10 hours per week	10-5 hours per week	

Repeats:	None	None	None
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	13.5 hours per week (including local news-led magazine weekday evenings)	13.5 hours per week (including local news- led magazine weekday evenings)	13.5-7 hours per week (including local news- led magazine weekday evenings)
Repeats:	None	None	None

Variation Request 14 Salisbury local TV licence variation request

Programming output	A general entertainment service that will:				
	working in th local news, (in	flect the interests and cor e Licensed Area and have nc. sub-genres such as cur in and around the locality	a strong emphasis on rent affairs, features		
		 Provide-a platform for people to raise issues and concerns-local debate / discussion with weekly current affairs content; 			
		unities for members of the cature in content and as ci	·		
		dcasts from local events ar ntary and business sectors			
		 Frequently include youth / student content or feaures-Reflect the diversity of the community (including youth / students); 			
	 Include social action and frequently Frequently highlight social / community issues / charitable causes; 				
		of content which will som general interest such as re tt.			
	programmes specific to area). For the avoidance	ne tables to 'local' program the Licensed Area (produ e of doubt, these totals ar e for other Licensed Areas	ced in or relevant to the e not inclusive of 'shared		
	The service will normal	ly schedule news at least 5	5 evenings per week.		
Hours of local programming per week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards		
First run:	14 hours per week	14 hours per week	14- 7 hours per week		
Repeats:	None	None	None		
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards		
First run:	10 hours per week	10 hours per week	10. 5 hours per week		
Repeats:	None	None	None		
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards		
	13.5 hours per week	13.5 hours per week	13.5-7 hours per		

	substantial proportion in peak)	substantial proportion in peak)	substantial proportion in peak)
Repeats:	None	None	None

Variation Request 15 Scarborough local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitments for Programming output	The service will be a ger which will: • frequently ref or working in the service will be a ger which will: • frequently ref or working in the service as the service and around the provide a platted to be a provide a platted to be a ger which will be a ger which wi	lect the interests and cor the Licensed Area; emphasis on local news er, information and feature locality); form for people to raise in discussion;	and (inc. sub-genres ures reflecting life in issues and concerns
Hours of local programming per week	 feature in con duly support t activities; and include covera 	he local voluntary sector	by covering local
First run:			
	5 hours per week	7 hours per week	7 hours per week
Repeats:	55 hours per week	53 hours per week Nil	53 hours per week Nil
Hours of local programming per week in	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
peak-time (18.00-22.30)	5 hours per week	7- 3.5 hours per week	7- 3.5 hours per week
First run:	16 hours per week	14 hours per week	14 hours per week
Repeats:		Nil	Nil
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	Total: 2.5 hours per week	Total: 5-7 hours per week	Total: 5-7 hours per week
	Total: 8hrs 45mins per week	Total: 13 hours per week Nil	Total: 13 hours per week Nil
Repeats:			

Variation Request 16 Southampton local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitmen	nts for That's TV – pr	oposed	
Programming output	 dedicated local news provision for persons living or working in and around the Licensed Area (inc. sub-genres such as sport, weather, information, current affairs and features) each of Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight; substantial weekly current affairs content that reflects the diversity of the community (including youth / students); strong elements of consumer affairs with consumer issues normally covered weekly; substantial weekly coverage of the local voluntary sector; programming featuring local sport in the Licensed Area; a showcase for local student content or features; programming featuring local people / places and reflecting local interests and concerns; What's On content and general coverage of the arts; and Documentary / factual specials, and a mix of content which will sometimes include matters of general interest such as lifestyle / advice content. 		
Hours of local programming per	The service will normally so	chedule news at least 5 even	ings per week. Year 3 onwards
week			
First run:	51 hours per week	35 hours per week	35 -17.5 hours per week
Repeats:	57 hours maximum per week	Nil	Nil
Hours of local programming per week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	18 hours per week	14 hours per week	14-8.75 hours per week
Repeats:	10.5 hours maximum per week	Nil	Nil
Hours of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	20 hours per week (inc. 2 hours at weekends) of which at least 5 hours in peak	20 hours per week (inc. 2 hours at weekends) of which at least 5 hours per week in peak	20-10 hours per week (inc. 2 hours at weekends) of which at least 5 hours per week in peak
	6 hours per week	Nil	Nil

Repeats:		

Addendum to annex to licence: This addendum forms part of the Annex to the licence.

The licensee is not permitted in peak time to schedule teleshopping windows defined as television broadcast direct offers (with a minimum uninterrupted duration of 15 minutes) for the supply of goods and services, including immovable property rights and obligations, in return for payment. For the avoidance of doubt, teleshopping windows also include direct offers, in return for payment, for gaming and betting (as defined in the Gambling Act 2005) and spread betting

Swansea local TV licence variation request

Programming Commitmen	nts for That's TV – p	roposed	
Programming output	The service will:		
	 frequently reflect the interests and concerns of people living or working in the Licensed Area; 		
	 include substantial local news and sports news (inc. sub-genres such as weather, current affairs information and features reflecting life in and around the locality); 		
	 provide a platfor current affairs; 	m for people to raise issue	s and concerns include
	 duly support the 	local voluntary sector by c	covering local activities; and
		content which will sometin such as history, arts and er	
	 normally include 	news bulletins at least 5 d	ays evenings per week.
Hours of local programming per day/week	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	17.5 hours	17.5 hours per week	17.5- 8.75 hours per week
Repeats:	32 hours	32 hours per week	32 hours per week None
Hours of local programming per day/week in peak-time (18.00-22.30)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	10 hours	10 hours per week	10-5 hours per week
Repeats:	12.5 hours	17.5 hours per week	17.5 hours per week None
Hours and scheduling of local news and current affairs programming	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 onwards
First run:	Monday to Friday:	Monday to Friday:	Monday to Friday:
	Morning show based around 5x15 minute rolling bulletins with weather and traffic news between -total 2 hours	16hrs 15 mins hrs per week of which 5 hours in evenings.	16hrs 15 mins hrs per week of which 5 hours in evenings.

	Lunchtime - 15 mins bulletin Evening News - 1 hour Total 16hrs 15 mins per week (3 hours 15 minutes a day		8.25 hours per week
Repeats:	None	None	None