



Mr Yiannis Thoedorou
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

2 December 2008

Dear Mr Thoedorou

Re: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review

We write to express our anxiety at the status of Channel 4 in the Public Service Broadcasting Review that is currently underway.

We believe that Channel 4 programming is suffering almost irreparably from the ongoing uncertainty over future funding. We believe that the proposed cuts to Channel 4's funding mean that the possibility of continuing to develop practitioners within theatre and television is being significantly restricted. This is only one way in which we believe that Channel 4 is now critically limited in terms of its ability to take artistic risks in programming and art form development.

In particular, schemes such as our own programme for emerging playwrights that Channel 4 supports are now in jeopardy. Funded by Channel 4 since 2005, our Future Perfect scheme gives Channel 4 – and by extension the broadcasting industry – the opportunity to identify and develop exciting, original and distinct voices and, importantly, offers writers unique access to the expertise, support and encouragement that the programme offers.

We believe that this continued uncertainty is putting the long term strategies of many of Channel 4's partners including not-for-profit organisations like our own into question; it will threaten the future artistic health of new writing as a whole. Without a decision soon, Channel 4 will be unable to re-commit much needed resources to projects such as our own Future Perfect programme for the foreseeable future. This project has been a valuable way for Channel 4 and Paines Plough Theatre to continue to identify writers whose work will benefit the whole of arts and television in the future; we fervently believe that the loss of programmes such as this, for all the reasons outlined above, will be deeply and widely felt.

We hope that Ofcom will move forward to find a positive outcome for Channel 4 in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Roxana Silbert
Artistic Director

Tessa Walker
Literary Director