

Title:

Dr

Forename:

Douglas

Surname:

Snell

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

What additional details do you want to keep confidential? :

No

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

Ofcom may publish a response summary:

Yes

I confirm that I have read the declaration:

Yes

Additional comments:

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

Yes

Question 2: Do you agree with ITV's proposals for changes to its regional news arrangements in England, including an increase in the number of news

regions in order to provide a more localised service, coupled with a reduction in overall news minutage? :

Not entirely. I can't see that it is necessary to reduce the news minutage.

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

Yes

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

The minutage is OK but I want the STV coverage available by broadcast to the whole of Scotland

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

Yes

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

No view on this. If I were a Channel Isles resident, however, I would oppose the reduction.

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

I'd like to see the decline in regional journalist staffing reversed. If that would be assisted by increasing the regional programming and production obligations on the commercial channels, I'd be happy with that.

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

Option C - relicensing to a Scotland-wide coverage. At present the amount of regional news coverage relating to Galloway is about the same on BBC Scotland as it is on Border Tyne-Tees, which is to say very little indeed.

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

Yes.

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

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

If the Border license is unsustainable as it stands, then it should be scrapped and replaced with one that has more prospect of washing its face. STV Scotland-wide might do that.

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

I think that could be tried in this next round, but with an obligation to demonstrate whether or not viewers are taking advantage of the extension of the window by viewing the regional content broadcast at the later times.