

Rhona Parry,  
PSB Review,  
Ofcom,  
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June 16<sup>th</sup> 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

**Re: Workers Educational Association, Northern Ireland response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation**

The Workers Educational Association, Northern Ireland is the leading voluntary provider of adult learning in Northern Ireland. □ We offer a wide range of courses for 6,000 learners delivered in community venues and organised in partnership with local organisations to meet local needs, annually. Our courses are regulated to ensure they fit with the needs of the Northern Ireland economy, reach all our most disadvantaged communities and provide people who had a poor experience of education at school a route back into learning.

As you are aware, the main political parties in Northern Ireland have supported Local Public Service Television and signed the Early Day Motion 1013 which looks to 'the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to introduce a licence for the provision of local public service television during the rollout of digital switchover'.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=35211&SESSION=891>

During the passage of the Communications Act, nine Northern Irish MPs supported "the important contribution community media can make to social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal, citizens' participation, local democracy and lifelong learning and called on the Government to include specific measures for the further growth and development of community media which would include distinct licensing arrangements based on clear public service obligations, reservation of broadcast spectrum, guaranteed access to cable channels and the establishment of a community media fund to help finance start up, development and operating costs". (EDM1316)

In response to your consultation we would recommend that Ofcom consider acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

In relation to the development of local television in Belfast, we should be grateful if Ofcom would support NvTv being carried on Freeview as a local public service broadcaster. Such a development would ensure that everyone in the city has access to a valuable local service and would support the efforts of those of us working towards a cohesive society and who seek to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely  
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Director

Stevie Johnston

Director

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