

Ack: 29.01.08



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Ed Richards
Chief Executive
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

28th January 2008

REF: IS/TB

Dear Ed Richards,

RE: RESPONSE TO THE OFCOM CONSULTATION 'THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION - ENABLING NEW SERVICES FOR VIEWERS'

With regard to the above consultation for which you are inviting responses, I commend to you my views as contained in EDM 922 which I tabled as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Community Media as follows:-

COMMUNITY RADIO AND TELEVISION (21.02.2007)

'.....calls on the Government to introduce secondary legislation to ensure that community and local television has access to the digital spectrum and also that sufficient space on digital spectrum is reserved for community media when considering Ofcom's Digital Dividend Review....'

You will also be aware of an earlier EDM 1316 (15.05.2002) tabled during the passing of the Communications Act tabled by my colleague, Tony Lloyd MP which stated that the House of Commons

'...notes that local and community television services are being pioneered under licences from the Independent Television Commission; recognises the important contribution community media can make to social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal, citizens' participation, local democracy and lifelong learning; calls 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 and guaranteed access to cable channels'

Yours sincerely,

Ian

Ian Stewart MP

(Chair, All Party Parliamentary Community Media Group)