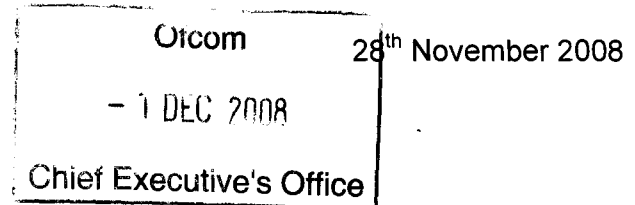


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Mr. Ed Richards,
Chief Executive,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2a Southwark Bridge Road,
LONDON, SE1 9HA.



Dear Mr. Richards,

I am writing in support of stv, the independent television provider that covers my Scottish Parliamentary constituency of Strathkelvin & Bearsden.

At the outset, it is only fair to declare I was employed by the company for ten years, both on-screen and latterly as Head of Public Affairs.

That experience means that I can speak with some knowledge about the importance of stv remaining as a PSB licence holder for Scotland, including the Borders.

As I'm sure you know, Scotland has a significantly different news agenda to the rest of the UK and that distinctive outlook and interest is covered well by stv, while ITN currently has no correspondent based north of the border.

It would also be of benefit to programme makers at stv if the company was awarded Independent Producer Status, as it would then be able to bid for commissions from BBC and Channel 4.

I do not believe Sir Michael Grade's "one size fits all" policy is appropriate for Scotland, and would hope Ofcom will realise the unique role stv plays in Scottish life and maintain their PSB status.

Yours sincerely,

David Whitton, MSP,
Strathkelvin & Bearsden.

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