

Question 1: Do you agree that public service provision and funding beyond the BBC is an important part of any future system?:

Yes, absolutely essential.

Question 2: Which of the three refined models do you think is most appropriate?:

The enhanced evolution model, if I understand it correctly. It is very important that ITV regional news is preserved. I think the recently agreed cuts in ITV regional news are a disgrace and should be reversed as soon as possible. There is a very real possibility that ITV will try to stop doing regional news and this should be prevented. The BBC needs strong competition in regional TV news, and ITV is the only body which can provide that competition, but only if the appalling cuts and sackings which ITV is carrying out are stopped.

Question 3: Do you agree that in any future model Channel 4 should have an extended remit to innovate and provide distinctive UK content across platforms? If so, should it receive additional funding directly, or should it have to compete for funding?:

Channel 4 was always supposed to innovate and be distinctive, but it seems to have lost its way and a lot of the time it is indistinguishable from other broadcasters. C4 should receive additional funding directly, but only if it proves that it is innovative and distinctive, and not driven purely by audience ratings. Channel 4 should be more like it was in its early years.

Question 4: Do you think ITV1, Five and Teletext should continue to have public service obligations after 2014? Where ITV1 has an ongoing role, do you agree that the Channel 3 licensing structure should be simplified, if so what form of licensing would be most appropriate?:

Yes, they should all have very strictly-controlled and wide-ranging public service obligations, particularly in the field of news and documentaries.

In an ideal world the ITV1 regional licensees would revert to how they were 10 or 15 years ago - independent companies competing not only with the BBC but also in a sense with each other to produce high-quality regional and network programmes.

Particularly, ITV should be forced to make proper regional news programmes. The regional news which ITV intends to start producing in a couple of months' time is a travesty of the interesting, varied and properly-resourced shows which the ITV regions were set up to make. If ITV can reliably show that it can no longer afford to make such programmes then it should receive enough state funding to allow it to continue in the long term, not just until 2014.

The BBC should never be allowed to become the only credible supplier of local TV

news, and yet that is exactly what will soon happen under ITV's plans which Ofcom has approved.

Question 5: What role should competition for funding play in future? In which areas of content? What comments do you have on our description of how this might work in practice?:

Competition for public service funding, if it exists, should never be associated with audience ratings.

Question 6: Do you agree with our findings that nations and regions news continues to have an important role and that additional funding should be provided to sustain it?:

I do believe that regional news on the BBC and ITV is essential and should be kept. I'm not sure Ofcom believes that though. Why has Ofcom allowed ITV to make massive cuts to its regional news programmes, meaning that many will now cover huge areas of the country containing several regions which have little in common with each other? I utterly disagree with paragraph 1.52 in "Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review - Phase 2: preparing for the digital future". Once these cuts happen it's unlikely they can be reversed.

Question 7: Which of the three refined models do you think is most appropriate in the devolved nations?:

I don't live in a devolved nation, but I imagine they need similarly distinctive news programmes to the English regions. The enhanced evolution model is probably still the most appropriate.

Question 8: Do you agree with our analysis of the future potential for local content services?:

Question 9: Do you agree with our assessment of each possible funding source, in terms of its scale, advantages and disadvantages?:

Question 10: What source or sources of funding do you think are most appropriate for the future provision of public service content beyond the BBC?:

I would prefer to see a profitable ITV which is happy to fund proper regional news from its own income, but if that isn't viable then ITV should receive funding, either from the state generally or from the licence fee. ITV will never reverse its recent cuts of its own volition, which is why it's deplorable that they were allowed.

Question 11: Which of the potential approaches to funding for Channel 4 do you favour?:

Question 12: Do you agree that our proposals for 'tier 2' quotas affecting ITV plc, stv, UTV, Channel TV, Channel 4, Five and Teletext are appropriate, in the light of our analysis of the growing pressure on funding and audiences? priorities? If not, how should we amend them, and what evidence can you provide to support your alternative?:

Please do not allow ITV to make cuts to its regional news.

Additional comments: