

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

John

**Surname:**

Lamont

**Representing:**

Self

**Organisation (if applicable):**

Member of the Scottish Parliament

**Email:**

**What additional details do you want to keep confidential? :**

Keep part of the response confidential

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

No parts need to be kept confidential.

**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? :**

**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? :**

**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? :**

**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? :**

**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? :**

**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? :**

**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? :**

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

I would undoubtedly prefer option 1 as not only would it include a return of the popular programme 'Lookaround' it would also provide more local content that is relevant to viewers in the Borders. Ofcom research has shown that viewers in the Borders place a preference for local news coverage and option 1 would provide a news service more tailored to our local area.

The same research also showed that there was no demand for more Scottish based content, which is why I believe that Option 2 would be unsuitable.

**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? :**

As long as it did not come at too great a cost then I would not see any reason for showing content that is of even less relevance to audiences in England.

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

I believe that option 1 as it has been set out will provide enough local coverage to satisfy demand.

**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? :**

Yes, the Border license should be amended to reduce the proportion of regional production required to a sustainable level. The physical location of production centres is less relevant than local news gathering. This amendment will allow ITV to compile and broadcast the new Border services from Gateshead while the actual news gathering will take place on the ground in the Border region.

**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? :**

Have no strong view but, on balance, STV and UTV should be allowed to extend peak to 11pm.