

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Richard

Surname:

Gordon

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:

No

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

Ofcom may publish a response summary:

Yes

I confirm that I have read the declaration:

Yes

Additional comments:

Irrespective of a yes or no vote in the 2014 referendum, Scotland is becoming increasingly "different" from England and an ITV or Channel 3 service straddling national boundaries is no longer acceptable. The now-defunct Border Scotland service recognised the problem and, partly, addressed the issue. If the rest of Scotland is entitled to 90 minutes non-news Scottish programming, the same must apply to the South.

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? :

Yes

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? :

No. This is not satisfactory.

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? :

Option 2 is the better of the two, but still does not meet the real needs of people in the Scottish Borders in any significant way.

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? :

Yes

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

The South of Scotland should be served by STV. Scotland has its own parliament, legal system, education and health services, and national police and fire operations, and yet more than quarter of a million Scots in their own country receive a Channel 3 service which treats them as a minority. The Scottish Borders is part of the Edinburgh "city region", will soon have a restored rail link to the Scottish capital and has no strong connection to either Northumberland or Cumbria. The South East of Scotland would be better served if it received Scottish Television's Edinburgh news service, with appropriate Scottish Borders content. It is a complete nonsense to suggest that a resident in Peebles, which has an Edinburgh postcode and is only a few miles from Scotland's capital, should receive "local" news from Gateshead. What happens in Dalkeith or Haddington is of far more relevance to people in the Scottish Borders than what is happening in Keswick or Carlisle....not to mention the current abominable service which gives us local news from York and Whitby. Also the HD and ITV +1 services allow us the "delights" of Granada Reports. This is an insult.

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? :

No....can we have STV please.

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?: