

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

Ian

**Surname:**

Stephen

**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:**

Having studied all the published views of Joan McAlpine MSP, John Lamont MSP, and JIM Hume, and ITV as well as local views in Galashiels, my considered view is that proposals C or D would best serve the largest number in our area. Mr Hume's views especially do not represent a large number e.g. 'Local Content v Central Belt bias' and 'Glasgow equally remote as Newcastle'. No mention of Edinburgh(!) to which a large number of Borderers relate.

**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? :**

National News and current affairs are covered adequately.

**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. ITV's statement that Lookaround has the 'highest viewing figures of any ITV Regional programme' does not address the variations within the various component areas. Also the statement that 'Lookaround is more popular than comparable services in Scotland', does not clarify which 'comparable services'.

**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? :**

I am not sufficiently au fait to make a comment on this.

**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? :**

The present minutage for regional content seems adequate, though more would be a bonus.

**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? :**

I am not sufficiently aware to comment on this.

**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? :**

I have no comment to make on this as it is outwith my interest.

**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? :**

Joan McAlpine's statement that we 'cannot ignore the strength of feeling' does not make it clear where this 'strength of feeling' lies. John Lamont's statement that the 'South of Scotland service return to the smaller Borders Region without Tyne Tees' cannot be justified. It reflects the 'ae been' Scottish Borders mentality which, as an incomer from the west of Scotland, I believe encourages navel gazing and hampers the view of orders as part of Scotland.

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

From taking local soundings options Ci or D which links Borders News with the Central belt is a more favoured option.

**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? :**

Provided coverage is available, is it not possible for the majority of Borders to tune in to the Central Scottish transmission while those who are further south to tune in to the Northern English transmissions ?

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

See outline of reply to Q9.

**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 I agree that the level must be sustainable.

**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? :**

The extension of peak time to 11pm for the scheduling of regional content makes sense. The level of regional content which finishes at teatime and does not resume until early morning does not allow for coverage of local news/events 'as they happen'.