

**Title:**

**Forename:**

**Surname:**

**Representing:**

Self

**Organisation (if applicable):**

**Email:**

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

Keep name confidential

**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:**

**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? :**

I agree with ITV's proposals to increase the number of News regions, though I suspect that ITV is only now doing this because they fear they will lose viewers to the Local TV Licences that are being awarded in places like, for example Oxford, Norwich. Nottingham  
Over many years ITV built up a loyal following from viewers to its regional news service. However I feel the restructuring that was allowed in 2009 greatly damaged their reputation for covering "Local News" and something they have never really recovered from. They were

very happy to just drop the sub regions then. As a result there are many areas across the Network where communities are completely left out of regional news coverage. They have almost become "No mans Land" when it comes to regional news.

Having read both the Ofcom document and ITV's proposals, I notice a discrepancy over the minutage for the proposed Thames Valley Service. Ofcom clearly states a 15 minute opt in the 18:00 programme from Whiteley, whereas ITV's document says a 10 minute news opt will be provided within the 18:00 programme for the Thames Valley service. This 5 minute difference would add up to 25 minutes in a week. A lot of news time! So what actually is the correct proposal? I don't understand why Thames Valley can not have a dedicated 20 minute programme. . ITV claims that one of the reasons for only having an opt for the Thames Valley is that "... There are Connections between the Thames Valley and the rest of the South Meridian region". I would suggest that people from particularly the North part of the Thames Valley region in places like Banbury and Bicester, and even Oxford certainly DONT feel connected to the Isle of Wight, Southampton or Dorset. That has indeed been one of the main criticisms of the service from Meridian since they scrapped their original Thames Valley service in 2009 . From 1989-2009 there was clearly plenty of relevant local news to cover a full 30 minute programme every weeknight at 18.00 by Central News South and then ITV Thames Valley. I fail to understand how local news could possibly have reduced in a region where the population continues to grow.

I notice also in the ITV document that in some of the regions it is proposed to record the "Opt" sub region shortly before 18:00 Transmission. How do they define "Shortly"? and in the case of Meridian with 3 Sub regions and 1 set of presenters, how can this be physically possible to do 5 nights a week. Recording would have to start around 16:00. That is NOT "Shortly" before the 18:00 transmission. The very nature of news means stories could change dramatically between recording and transmission.

Regarding minutage and the proposed reduction. if you can produce a 20 minute programme for 18:00, then I don't see why there should be the need to reduce the duration of the 22:30 bulletin to 5 minutes from the current duration. The material is already there. The cost of keeping the late news at its current length is surely negligible and viewers would feel that ITV actually cares about covering their region. The late local news following the National news has always had a good audience. Why drive that audience and loyalty away?

**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? :**

I would like to see ITV pay more attention to the core transmission areas in each of its news regions. For example. Why does Meridian cover places like Windsor, and Leatherhead, which are 100% part of the London transmission region, whilst ignoring core places in the region like Aylesbury, Buckingham. Again Meridian claims Henley on-Thames and Marlow, yet these 2 towns are served by relay transmitters from ITV London service.. Where is the point of covering places where viewers simply can not see the programme. At a time when resources and money are very tight, why is time and effort wasted in such places? I feel news bosses in the regions should reacquaint themselves to their regions transmission maps. Too much emphasis is given to overlap towns and cities, rather than places wholly within 1 sub region. EG Central covers Leicester very well, yet I can't remember any news covering places like Ross On Wye or Shrewsbury or even Leominster. The same goes for places like Stow On -The Wold and the Cotswolds. Thriving communities, but since 2009 forgotten when it comes to ITV local news coverage. These are examples of many places around the country that have become "No Mans Land" as far as regional news on ITV is concerned. Why? ITV has been given the privilege to hold the channel 3 licenses and I feel it must honour the regional commitments that sets it apart from other broadcasters.

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

**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? :**

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

**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? :**

**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?:**