

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

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

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?:

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?:

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?:

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?:

It is absolutely essential to have regional news services in the future. This is why my members at the Nottingham NUJ branch are incensed over plans by ITV to reduce the number of regions from 17 to 9 and in particular, the region which affects us, Central News East.

The establishment of the Central News East region in the 1970's came about following a sustained campaign from local MP's and organisations in the area. Then, it was argued that the identity of the East Midlands was being overlooked. Viewers in Nottingham, Leicester Derby and parts of Lincolnshire did not want to hear about Birmingham or Cheltenham in their local news bulletins. It was important for the vibrance of the East Midlands to be recognised as an entity in itself.

The current proposal, means a reversal of that decision thirty years ago and a return to a joint programme where East Midlands will be given six minutes of news. We believe this is obscene to reduce the contribution from Central News to a tiny fraction of the proposed new regional programme.

Unfortunately, we have seen an undermining of the Central News operation over the past four years. First, the studios were closed at Lenton Lane in Nottingham which resulted in the loss of two hundred jobs.

A smaller satellite operation was set up at Chilwell but the compromise saw the presentation of the main evening programme coming from Birmingham, the early morning news and the weekend news coming from Birmingham. The consequence

has been the undermining of the East Midlands regions - as Birmingham the larger and more dominant area has dominated the news agenda. Weekend and morning news has meant viewers have to watch bulletins which don't relate to their region.

It is feared that with the diminution of the news from Central East, fewer and fewer people will watch the programme and then ITV will feel justified in axing the contributions from the East completely.

We feel both the viewers to Central East and the staff have been treated very shabbily by ITV.

There is also concern that with the changeover to digital in 2012, that ITV will not continue with its public service responsibilities, which we think would be an utter disgrace. It is not only an affront to those viewers who like to hear about their region, but it is also an attack on local democracy.

In addition, my members of the Nottingham branch of the NUJ believe the axing of Central East and all the other regions will send out the wrong message, particularly to the BBC, who will think its regions are expendable too.

Only a couple of weeks ago, the BBC in an organisational restructure, dropped the name Nations and Regions.

We can foresee the time, when dedicated regional programmes and broadcasting will be a thing of the of the past. And, in a climate of local newspapers, cutting back editions, and closing some small newspapers we think any cutbacks by ITV in the regions will compound the undermining of local news.

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

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?:

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?:**