

Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London,
SE1 9HA.
PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk

9.06.08

Dear Rhona Parry,

Re: Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Network response to the consultation:
Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital
Opportunity consultation

The Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Network is a lead organisation working with and for those experiencing poverty in Northern Ireland. NIAPN aims to end poverty by empowering communities and influencing government through research, education and campaigning. We are an interactive network with over 330 members drawn from the voluntary and community sectors, public and statutory bodies. We are one of 25 members of the European Anti-Poverty Network. EAPN monitor and analyse EU policies, which have an impact on people in poverty. We work in partnership with sister anti-poverty networks in Scotland, England, Wales and the South of Ireland.

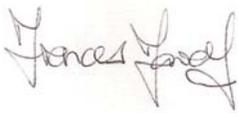
In response to your consultation and in relation to your main objective of furthering the interests of citizen-consumers; in particular, developing *"a new broadcasting licensing regime to foster self-regulation and broaden citizen/consumer choice"* we would recommend that Ofcom considers acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

We have worked with Northern Visions/NvTv on local television programming related to ending poverty in our society. Empowering citizens to become content providers and creating media which reflects and raises awareness of local issues and interests constitutes a valuable public service. It enhances skills, encourages a sense of place and ownership of the city and has the potential to foster greater citizenship.

Regarding aspects of work required to bring about a UK map of local and community television following analogue TV switch-off post 2010, we would request your assurance that no planning, at this stage, precludes a network of local digital multiplexes. In relation to the development of local television in Belfast, we should be grateful if Ofcom would support NvTv being carried on Freeview as a local public service broadcaster.

Such a development would ensure that everyone in the city has access to a valuable local service and would support the efforts of all of us who are working to create a society free from poverty, as well as nurturing the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances Dowds', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Frances Dowds
Director
NIAPN