

Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
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June 16th 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

In response to your consultation - *Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity 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.

As an artist and freelance tutor, I have worked with Northern Visions/NvTv over a number of years to bring filmmaking and animation skills into our deprived communities, most recently with four primary schools in the Belfast area. These programmes are designed to open the way for children to explore the idea of communicating their own particular story in a medium they understand and are excited by. The children are introduced to brain storming, thinking on their feet and imaginative storytelling. The process frees the pupils up to take risks in their thought process and drawing techniques. It is also important, I feel, that the new digital technologies are introduced to children who are attending schools on or near interfaces in our city and who had had to address the direct effects of acute civil and social unrest as Northern Visions has been pioneering.

Here are some of the responses from the children who have participated - "I have really enjoyed you coming in every Thursday and teaching us how to do animation"; "I enjoyed the sound recording, it was cool. It was hard not to laugh"; "I wish you were coming in every day because you are so good"; "I enjoyed the part where we worked in small groups and broke down the animation and then did it ourselves"; "I found it interesting when we got to do the storyboard because you got to do the different shots" and "I am very excited about the animation being put on TV".

Regarding aspects of work required to bring about a UK map of local and community television following analogue TV switch-off post 2010, I 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, I would 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 the community media and cultural film sector to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely
Corrina Askin
Animator