

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

Yes but only to a limited degree in providing a local/regional news service in areas which the BBC currently neglects but ITV covers. My particular interest is in Cumbria which is only nominally covered by the BBC but dealt with well by ITV Border.

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?:

I think that ITV1 should continue to have a public service obligation with respect to news and current affairs. Some of the licence fee might be made available to ITV in order to cover those areas of local/regional affairs which the BBC neglects at present. I refer particularly to Cumbria.

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?:

Competition for funding in local/regional news and current affairs should be based on the degree to which the BBC provides adequate coverage - in effect the BBC should have to compete to retain its current licence income by providing a service in area where it presently fails to do so.

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?:

Yes. However the proposal to combine the Border and Tyne-Tees news service will give Cumbria yet more trivia from the north-east and neglect more important issues from Cumbria. The prospect is dire!

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

Although I am a Welshman living in England, I feel this is an area on which I should not comment.

Question 8: Do you agree with our analysis of the future potential for local content services?:

No. Where ITV is the only provider of a reasonable service they should be subsidised to continue it by taking money from the licence fee or the BBC should take over the services where they do not provide cover. At the risk of appearing parochial I come back to Border in Cumbria. The BBC have many specialist reporters based in Newcastle but no one based in Cumbria and no TV studio in Cumbria. In contrast Border has its studios at Carlisle and reporters who move around in the county. BBC reporters only seem to come when the issue has already been covered in the national bulletins.

Question 9: Do you agree with our assessment of each possible funding source, in terms of its scale, advantages and disadvantages?:

In general, yes. I feel that the BBC is the bedrock and should retain most of the licence fee but that where it fails (particularly with respect to regional/local news) it should risk losing part of it to ITV.

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?:

Additional comments: