

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Ian

Surname:

Horsburgh

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

What additional details do you want to keep confidential? :

No

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:

The Scottish Borders has for decades been poorly served by TV channels both BBC and commercial. The latest ITV venture for the Border Area is now including news from Newcastle Middlesbrough and Scarborough, which is in no sense local and very very often never crosses the border as far news is concerned. It is so poor that I and other people frequently use Sky to get the STV news from the Edinburgh studio as the news is far more relevant and does at times cover stories in this part of the world. Many people from the Borders work in and around Edinburgh and Lothians and this makes far more sense. Wouldn't it make far more sense for Scottish Borders to be covered by STV Edinburgh signal and Dumfries & Galloway by STV Glasgow. I know it certainly works for the former Grampian TV area.

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? :

Yes

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? :

We want decent Scottish services for people living in Scotland not what ITV Border/Tyne Tees offers

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? :

Don't know what standard they receive now. No region should get less cover

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? :

STV regions covering all Scotland

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? :

Don't know what standard they receive now

No region should get less cover

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? :

Don't know what standard they receive now

No region should get less cover

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?:

Put the Borders and Dumfries & Galloway in STV.

Stop treating us as outsiders who don't belong or matter

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

Scottish Borders to be covered by STV Edinburgh signal and Dumfries & Galloway by STV Glasgow. I know it certainly works for the former Grampian TV area. In this day and age this should be no problem

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? :

In this day and age this should be no problem. Southern Scotland has been poorly served long enough

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

See Question 9

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? :

English Border should stay with Tyne Tees with coverage for Carlisle as at present. South of Scotland moved as it should be to STV

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?:

No problem. If it's interesting it will get watched if it's not then it won't