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Fiona Mactaggart, Member of Parliament for Slough

Ref: 2.1.08



18 December 2007

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ed Richards  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 9HA



Dear Ed Richards

I am writing to comment on the review of children's television which you are conducting at present.

Several of my constituents have contacted me about this and have expressed their concern that there is little investment by many major British broadcasters in children's television. They fear that ITV, Channel 4 and Five have all cut back or withdrawn completely from investing in new UK children's programmes. As a result, there is very little choice for children other than imported shows that do not speak to them in their own cultural language. Ofcom's reports have shown that new UK programmes now account for just 1% of all the children's shows broadcast in the UK, and the situation is getting rapidly worse.

I represent a diverse and varied constituency and my constituents are concerned that there are few children's programmes, other than from the BBC, which reflect the diverse lives UK children live today, or that encourage UK children of all backgrounds to engage with the world and the society around them. They support BBC programming but want to ensure that there is a choice of high-quality programmes for their children. I agree with this and I hope that Ofcom will stress the importance of high-quality programmes for children, which enable them to understand the world around them and to see different viewpoints.

Yours sincerely

**Fiona Mactaggart**  
Member of Parliament for Slough