

Consultation response form

Your response

Question	Your response
<p>Question 1: What are stakeholder views on how Ofcom should assess and measure BBC performance?</p>	<p>I believe that the Ofcom should adhere closely to the Putnam Amendments to the 2003 Communications Act which stated: “It shall be the principal duty of OFCOM in carrying out their functions – (a) to further the interests of the citizens in relation to communications matters; and (b) in that context. To further the interests of consumers in relevant markets.</p>
<p>Question 2: Do you agree with the proposals for Public Purpose 1? If not, please explain why.</p>	<p>Broadly agree; but be aware of both political and commercial interests with a vested interest in questioning the BBC’s impartiality when what they resent is the BBC’s impartiality in contrast to their opinionated news. The BBC News Channel needs to retain a distinctive and separate role and not be “merged” with other services. This is particularly important as “opinionated” news channels seek to marginalise the BBC.</p>
<p>Question 3: Do you agree with the proposals for Public Purpose 2? If not, please explain why.</p>	<p>I think it is a mistake to have carried out this consultation during a time when neither Parliament nor Government have been fully functioning. Many Party Groups and APGs may still want to be consulted when Parliament returns & the consultation period should be extended until 30 November.</p>
<p>Question 4: Do you agree with the proposals for Public Purpose 3? If not, please explain why.</p>	<p>Broadly agree so long as “distinctiveness” does not preclude the BBC providing programmes of distinctive quality as a benchmark against commercial productions.</p>
<p>Question 5: Do you agree with our preliminary view on the BBC’s request to change Operating Licence conditions 2.21 and 2.32 for BBC Four, including our proposal to remove BBC Four’s peak original productions quota and set the ‘all hours’ quota at 65% instead of 60% as requested by the BBC? If not, please explain why.</p>	<p>Approach with caution. BBC has been a success and budget pressure4s should not allow it to be undermined and marginalised.</p>

<p>Question 6: Do you agree with the proposals for Public Purpose 4? If not, please explain why.</p>	<p>Yes; but retain the distinct 24/7 News Service as a way of providing local, regional and national coverage of high quality and impartiality.</p>
<p>Question 7: Taken together, do you agree with the proposals for a new Operating Licence? If not, please explain why.</p>	<p>Of course I accept that the BBC be able to adapt to change. But OFCOM must not fall in the trap of accepting that the BBC is terminally flawed and incapable of meeting changes in technology or audience. The old Reithian mantra “to inform, educate and entertain still holds good and OFCOM has a duty to protect as well as regulate. It is naïve not to realise that this exercise takes place against a background of self-interested hostility to public service broadcasting. OFCOM must be robust in carrying out the mandate Parliament has set for it, which includes defending the BBC who wish to marginalise and underfund it or make it the mouth piece of the Government of the day. This Review is as much a test of the integrity of Ofcom as it is that of the BBC.</p>

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