



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure**

Jonathan Rose  
Director  
OFCOM Northern Ireland  
Landmark House  
The Gasworks  
Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 2JD

10<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Our ref.: C333/13

Dear Jonathan,

**Renewal of Channel 4 Licence**

At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013, the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure considered OFCOM's correspondence on the renewal of Channel 4's licence, particularly its proposals to increase Channel 4's quota of 'out of England' production to 9 per cent.

The Committee also received representation from a number of organisations who consider the suggested increase of 9 per cent as inadequate, instead calling for an increase in local production to 17%. They argue that 17% more accurately reflects the level of population in the UK; delivers a greater economic return to the regions; and ensures an *equitable* distribution of economic and cultural value across each of the devolved regions.

Having concluded its inquiry into Maximising the Potential of the Creative Industries earlier this year, the Committee is aware of the positive benefits that local TV production brings to our creative industries. Indeed, the Committee recently called on both BBC NI and UTV to increase their levels of local content and output.

Therefore, in line with its position on local content, the Committee supports the calls for an increase in the **quota to 17%** for 'out of England' production within Channel 4's licence. The Committee urges OFCOM to reflect this in the renewed licence.

Yours sincerely,

*Michelle McIlveen*

**Michelle McIlveen MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure**