

Plaid Cymru's response to Ofcom's consultation regarding independent television broadcasting arrangements in Wales

Plaid Cymru supports the recommendation of OFCOM's Advisory Committee for Wales of creating a specific Channel 3 licence for Wales. Plaid Cymru strongly believes that this is absolutely necessary in order to reflect the growing developments in Wales's devolved structure.

The four reasons noted by ACW for this change in the licence conditions are completely valid and reflect the increasing confidence that the people of Wales have in their nationality.

Independent television has played an underpinning role in this democratic development since the days of Teledu Cymru and TWW, but the 'marriage' with South West England could prove to be a risk in the future. Independent Television has made an extensive and varied contribution to the culture of Wales over the decades, but a new chapter is about to begin in the field of broadcasting and technology and a national licence would enable specific solutions to be created for some of the challenges facing Wales.

Plaid Cymru believes that a condition must be imposed on the successful Channel 3 applicant in Wales to prepare a standard and adequate news service to reflect the nation's political reality. The licence conditions should not allow the successful company to cut the provision below the current 5 1/2 hours for the term of the licence.

Wales needs a comprehensive news service, one which provides an alternative choice to the BBC's service. Consideration should be given to imposing further conditions on the successful applicant to reflect the culture of Wales beyond the field of news and current affairs.