



BENTLEY PRODUCTIONS LTD

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12th May 2009

By E-mail

Dear Ofcom,

Bentley Productions is an independent production company and over the last 13 years we have been commissioned by ITV to make such successful dramas as *Ultimate Force* and *Midsomer Murders*. In that time Channel Television has been our compliance licensee. Channel Television is a highly efficient, reliable company and we have developed a strong working relationship with them over the years.

I see that Ofcom are consulting on changes to the compliance system in ITV. Although this is a matter primarily for the ITV companies I would be very concerned if any changes were made which had the effect of reducing or taking away Bentley's ability to choose which company should be our compliance licensee. Historically independent producers working for ITV have always had the right to commission the compliance company of their choice. It is especially important for our well established drama *Midsomer Murders* that Bentley deals with experienced colleagues who are sympathetic to our editorial needs. I am sure that other independent producers with long running series would be of the same thinking.

I do not understand how your proposal can support Bentley's freedom to choose such a fundamental aspect of production. I believe that our production would not benefit from any of the suggested changes, which are seeking to improve a system that I am very happy with.

Yours faithfully

Brian True-May
MD Bentley Productions
Producer *Midsomer Murders*, *Ultimate Force*

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