

Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London, SE1 9HA.

PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk

June 17th 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

Re: The Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation

Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School was established by musicians, including the world renowned musician Sean McGuire, and members of the community who themselves were not musicians, but who believed that the development of such an institution would be socially beneficial to the community. The school has been providing music classes and workshops throughout Belfast since 1991, including many cross-community and multi-cultural events. Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School is committed to the provision of music classes to people of all ages and abilities. Our aim is to provide a 'Centre of Music and Study' to encourage the development of a base of skilled musicians and a musically literate community.

In response to your consultation and in relation to your main objective of furthering the interests of citizen-consumers; in particular, developing *"a new broadcasting licensing regime to foster self-regulation and broaden citizen/consumer choice"* we would recommend that Ofcom considers acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

We know at first hand the importance of involving local people in music and the arts. We have worked with Northern Visions/NvTv on music programming for the local television station and appreciate the benefits that community media can deliver. Empowering citizens to become content providers and creating media which reflects and raises awareness of local issues and interests constitutes a valuable public service. It enhances skills, encourages a sense of place and ownership of the city and has the potential to foster greater citizenship.

In relation to the development of local television in Belfast, we should be grateful if Ofcom would support NvTv being carried on Freeview as a local public service broadcaster. Such a development would ensure that everyone in the city has access to a valuable local service and would support the efforts of the community arts and media sector to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas McElroy
Manager