

Rhona Parry,  
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Ofcom,  
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Dear Rhona Parry,

**Re: Belfast Exposed Photography response to the consultation:**

**Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation**

Founded in 1983 as a community photography initiative, Belfast Exposed Photography now functions as a gallery for contemporary photography with the emphasis on commissioning and publication of new work. It holds a community photography archive and runs an extensive educational outreach network. The production of socially and politically engaged work and dialogue is the driving force behind all aspects of the Belfast Exposed project. We are located in Exchange Place, on Donegall Street, in Belfast's cultural quarter. Exchange Place houses our ground floor public gallery of contemporary photography and digital archive access point: first floor dark room and digital work suite and archive room. We share Exchange Place with film and media partners, including NvTv, whose studio and production facilities occupy the second and third floors and whose coverage of our public and community events has helped us to get the message out among local communities over the years.

**Sect 3: How well are the public service broadcasters delivering public purposes?**

Locally-originated output is fundamental to the delivery of public service broadcasting purposes here in Northern Ireland. We agree with other partners in the arts and community arts sector that coverage of the arts in NI is currently under-represented in national and local mainstream output by both BBC NI and ITV1's subsidiary UTV and likewise excluded from mainstream news and current affairs programming on both radio and television. The project of widening access to arts and community arts coverage for people in Northern Ireland is therefore an important issue for Belfast Exposed.

**Sect 4: The changing market environment**

Belfast Exposed welcomes the broadening out of definitions of public service provision to include contributions from private, public, voluntary sector and individuals, who, like NvTv, already enjoy relationships with local arts and community organisations and where content is produced which, meets the criteria of public service broadcasting.

In this respect, 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 suggest that Ofcom considers accepting local community television under the definition of public service broadcasting. Furthermore, in the context of widening the reach of local television and on condition that content meets public service and quality criteria, local community television providers, including established providers like NvTv, should be considered for output broadcast on Freeview as local public service broadcasters. Such a development would provide a platform for local interests, encourage participatory programme making, ensure wider access, support the work of the community arts and media sector and nurture the region's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Hadaway  
Director