

esc understanding through film:

Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London,
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PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk

Dear Ms. Parry,
June 11th 2008

Re: Educational Shakespeare Company, Belfast response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation

The Educational Shakespeare Company was formed in 1999 in response to a need for practical Shakespeare workshops in Northern Ireland schools. Our programmes include the media arts working with the Northern Ireland Prison Service and the performing arts working with young people in divided and disadvantaged areas of Belfast to explore reconciliation and conflict resolution. We also prepare young people for the Active Citizenship ASDAN Awards.

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 have known of the work of Northern Visions/NvTv over a number of years and have worked with them on arts based projects. 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 those of us who are working for a socially inclusive society in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely
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Director

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