



Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
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12/6/08

Dear Rhona Parry,

**Re: Food for Thought Africa, Northern Ireland response to the consultation:
Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review - Phase One: The Digital
Opportunity consultation**

The vision of Food for Thought Africa is an Africa free from poverty and through our work we provide feeding programmes in schools, educational facilities and resources, sponsored secondary education, adult education and work skills training - and grants for start up businesses. We recently teamed up with the First Lady of Rwanda's project, Imbutu Foundation to sponsor 100 students through their entire secondary school education.

As an entirely voluntary organisation, every penny donated goes on helping the people who really need it.

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 worked with Northern Visions/NvTv on programming about international development issues and we appreciate the benefits, which community media and local television can deliver. Empowering citizens to become content providers and creating media which reflects and raises awareness of local issues and interests in the wider sphere, constitutes a valuable public service. It enhances skills, encourages a

sense of place and ownership of the city. It also has the potential to bring the issues faced by other continents to the local communities who support our work.

Regarding aspects of work required to bring about a UK map of local and community television following analogue TV switch-off post 2010, we would request your assurance that no planning, at this stage, precludes a network of local digital multiplexes.

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. It would support the efforts of all of us wishing to communicate the needs of the developing world as well as informing local communities of how they can help us to achieve our vision.

Yours sincerely

Maeve Marnell
Trustee