

Rhona Parry,  
PSB Review,  
Ofcom,  
Riverside House,  
2A Southwark Bridge Road,  
London,  
SE1 9HA.  
[PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk)

June 11, 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

In response to your consultation - *Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity 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" I would recommend that Ofcom considers acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

As a community artist and arts consultant in the UK, Ireland and internationally, I know at first hand the social, cultural and artistic benefits, which community arts and community media can deliver. Community arts and media projects have been used to address a wide range of social and economic issues. They are a vital component in involving hard-to-reach groups and in eliminating social exclusion. 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. It contributes greatly to broadening choice.

Regarding aspects of work required to bring about a UK map of local and community television following analogue TV switch-off post 2010, I 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, I would 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 an excellent and inclusive 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.

**'Some... see things as they are and say why?  
I dream things that never were and say why not?'**  
**Robert Kennedy**

Yours sincerely  
Gerri Moriarty  
Community Artist