

Golden Thread Gallery

Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London,
SE1 9HA.
PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk

17th June 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

Re: Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation

The Golden Thread Gallery, is a not for profit organisation committed to supporting the development of contemporary visual art and artists in Northern/Ireland. The Gallery presents an annual programme of high quality contemporary art, featuring local, national and international artists. Our associated activities include events, projects, touring products/exhibitions and outreach activities/workshops.

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 of the social benefits that the visual arts and community media can deliver. We have worked with Northern Visions/NvTv on several occasions. 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 arts and community media sector to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Graham
Development Officer