

SENT BY E-MAIL

18 June 2008

Ms Rhona Parry
PSB Review
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
LONDON
SE1 9HA

Dear Ms Parry

I wish to respond to your consultation document 'Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity', specifically in relation to your main objective of furthering the interests of citizen-consumers by developing 'a new broadcasting licensing régime to foster self-regulation and broaden citizen/consumer choice'.

My interest in this stems from my involvement with Northern Visions (NvTv), which is a community television service based in Belfast. I was fortunate to secure a place on one of their 5-day intensive training courses in June 2007, during which I had hands-on experience of using a camera, sound and editing equipment. I also attended seminars on presenting and interviewing techniques and was given notes to underpin my newly acquired knowledge.

At the end of the course we were invited to become volunteers and it was not long afterwards that I began to accompany experienced members of staff on their shoots and thereby learn from their expertise. This led to my presenting two programmes for the channel which, in turn, has given me the opportunity to devise and present programmes of my own. Personal involvement is very much in line with NvTv's aim to increase freedom of expression and to encourage individuals and groups not only to produce their own ideas for broadcasting but also to go on and make the programme with the assistance of the staff of NvTv, as necessary.

It is a very empowering experience to be able to present one's own ideas oneself rather than have them expressed by a third party and it enables citizens to highlight local issues and talk directly to those in power whose decisions have such a direct impact on them. Although based in Belfast, NvTv does not confine its programmes to the city's concerns alone; rather it seeks to cover issues which affect and interest the wider community in Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, however, NvTv is not available in every area of Belfast, far less the whole of the country and I would, therefore, urge Ofcom to support NvTv being carried on Freeview as a local public service broadcaster. This would ensure that every citizen of Northern Ireland had access to this valuable local service and could use it to highlight his local issues, voice his concerns and share his culture.

May I ask you, please, to give this proposal your sympathetic consideration.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Alison Ince (Ms)