

INNATE

an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education

Publishers of *Nonviolent News* and providers of resources and training on nonviolence

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

17th June 2008

Re: INNATE's response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation

Dear Rhona Parry,

The Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education (INNATE) was established as a result of the need for an umbrella group to support groups and individuals exploring nonviolent approaches to conflict issues. We act as a network, linking those committed to, or interested in, explicitly nonviolent action and training. Some of INNATE's work is intertwined with community relations and the development of a nonviolent response to areas of community tension in Northern Ireland. We have various international and local linkages and associations.

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 twenty years. As a network organisation, we have experienced at first hand of the social benefits that community media can deliver and we have supported programming on NvTv, the local television station in Belfast. 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. This would really enable NvTv's excellent programming to 'come home' to the audience it deserves.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Fairmichael
Coordinator, INNATE