

Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
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London,
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Date

Dear Rhona Parry,

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

Founded in 1994, Kabosh is a Belfast-based independent theatre company committed to challenging the notion of what theatre is and where it takes place. It is the only theatre company in Northern Ireland that produces site-specific theatre. The company uses local stories and histories to create plays that chart the way Northern Ireland is evolving whilst animating public spaces. Kabosh is committed to providing quality stimulating, entertainment for everybody living in and visiting Northern Ireland as well as developing the indigenous creative industries and promoting its worth both nationally and internationally.

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.

The arts have presented new possibilities to many people across the north, allowing them to experience their own and other's histories in safe, communal environments. This provides society with the tools necessary to check the cycle of traumatic thinking and imagine an inclusive, tolerant future. Local government identifies the challenging targets still to be met within conflict resolution and improved social health and the arts has a proven, proactive role to play in addressing this need. 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.

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 and would support the efforts of the community arts and media sector to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely
Jo Egan
Creative Producer