

Rhona Parry,  
PSB Review,  
Ofcom,  
Riverside House,  
2A Southwark Bridge Road,  
London, SE1 9HA.

June 13<sup>th</sup> 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

**Re: Mount Vernon Community Development Forum, Belfast  
response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service  
Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity  
consultation.**

Made up of a cross-section of residents representing all constituencies from teens to pensioners, the Mount Vernon Community Development Forum is a resident-led forum characterized by a strong community spirit. Our ten-year strategic vision for our community was centred on eight "strategy maps" around the issues of arts, sport and culture; community spirit; education; employment; environment; health; young families; and young people. From the outset, community artists have been central to the process, providing different and innovative ways to engage residents to develop a strategy to bring about their vision for the future of their community.

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 are committed to the social and economic regeneration of our community and improving the quality of life for our residents. We know at first hand the importance of involving local people in the arts and community media and the social benefits, which this can deliver. 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 all of us who are working to build a socially inclusive society. It would also support the community arts and media sector to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely  
Danny Rafferty