

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

Date 9th June 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

**Re: The Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission response to the consultation:
Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital
Opportunity consultation**

The Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission's (NIMIC) remit to provide strategy and services towards accelerating the development of a sustainable music industry in Northern Ireland. NIMIC develops audiences and markets for Northern Ireland music and contemporary musical artists and maximises media and music industry exposure for Northern Ireland musicians and their work and products, at a local, national and international level. We provide expert advice and guidance on a wide variety of business and sector specific skills and work with a range of industry professionals and key organizations including PRS, MCPS, AIM, BPI, MMF, UKTI, PPL, MPA and Music Tank.

As you are aware, the main political parties in Northern Ireland have supported Local Public Service Television and signed the Early Day Motion 1013 which looks to *'the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to introduce a licence for the provision of local public service television during the rollout of digital switchover'*.
<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=35211&SESSION=891>

During the passage of the Communications Act, nine Northern Irish MPs supported *"the important contribution community media can make to social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal, citizens' participation, local democracy and lifelong learning and called on the Government to include specific measures for the further growth and development of community media which would include distinct licensing arrangements based on clear public service obligations, reservation of broadcast spectrum, guaranteed access to cable channels and the establishment of a community media fund to help finance start up, development and operating costs"*. (EDM1316)

In response to your consultation we would recommend that Ofcom considers acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

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 those of us who seek to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely

Ross Graham
Chief Executive