

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

Dear Rhona Parry,

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

The Shankill Women's Centre was formed in 1987 as a locally based group to provide education for women and has since flourished and developed to its current position as a key provider for training, health awareness, childcare and young women's activities in the Greater Shankill and beyond. We provide an accessible resource and development support for women in Greater Shankill and beyond.

The Centre's role is underpinned by a set of values and principles that support its role in championing women including the promotion of good relations and challenging sectarianism and racism in all aspects of our work, working in partnership with other agencies, both locally and in the wider sphere, involving local women in the management and staffing of our centre and responding appropriately to community need.

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 many years and have worked with them on programming for the local television station. 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 to alleviate disadvantage and build a socially inclusive society.

Yours sincerely
Betty Carlisle
Shankill Women's Centre Manager