

Dear Mr Richards,

With regards to the above consultation for which you are inviting responses, I commend to you my views as contained in EDM 922 (21.02.2007), as follows;

“.....calls on the Government to introduce secondary legislation to ensure that community and local television has access to the digital spectrum and also that sufficient space on digital spectrum is reserved for community media when considering Ofcom's Digital Dividend Review....”

You will also be aware of an earlier EDM 1316 (15.05.2002) tabled during the passage of the Communications Act,

“.....notes that local and community television services are being pioneered under licences from the Independent Television Commission; recognises the important contribution community media can make to social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal, citizens' participation, local democracy and lifelong learning; calls 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 and guaranteed access to cable channels;.....”

Nothing has happened since these EDM's were tabled to have changed my opinions in any way, and I certainly hope that the results of the consultation will confirm this view.