

Question 11: do you agree with our proposals for accommodating Five, S4C, TG4 and GDS on Multiplex 2?

Sinn Fein strongly supports OFCOM proposals to make Teilifis na Gaeilge (TG4) universally available throughout the North of Ireland as part of the delivery of Digital TV. This was a key commitment of the Good Friday Agreement, an international treaty between the British and Irish Governments.

While we welcome proposals for the delivery of Irish Language Broadcasting we are concerned and point out that the introduction of Digital TV as presently proposed will see a reduction in the availability of the Irish National English language stations – RTE 1 and 2 as well as TV 3. This will be seen as a disadvantage to many who would wish to avail of what they see as their National Broadcasters. Such an outcome would not comply with the stated aim of the Good Friday Agreement which is to foster equality and parity of esteem for both British and Irish identities.

We would urge OFCOM to initiate consultations with its southern equivalent with the intention of reaching agreement on mechanisms for universal delivery of all the Irish national channels – Gaeilge and English language on Digital Freeview.