

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

Yes.

We strongly support these proposals. Under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, which has the force of an international treaty, the British Government has committed itself to "explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in co-operation with the Irish broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more widespread availability of Teilifís na Gaeilge [TG4] in Northern Ireland". The Ofcom proposals under Pars 6.24 and 6.25 will ensure universal availability for this channel in Northern Ireland through terrestrial digital broadcasting. This will be an improvement on the current availability of the channel, which currently reaches up to 70% of the population. Without this proposed measure, TG4 will reach only a tiny proportion of the population after digital switch-over.

The ULTACH Trust is a charitable Trust based in Northern Ireland whose aim is to promote the Irish language throughout the entire population of Northern Ireland. We have been campaigning for adequate television services for Irish-speakers and those with an interest in the language since 1990. We regard TG4 as an essential and irreplaceable part of the broadcasting mix in Northern Ireland.