

Dear Sir,

May I use this format to submit an objection to the above proposal? The questions posed on your formal submission page are very media specific and do not address the point I wish to make.

My objection to the proposed changes is that it involves the loss of the 24 hour News channel, Sky News, from Freeview which at present is the only significant alternative news provider to BBC News that is freely available to the public. (ITV News now has a smaller news reach than it used to have and Sky News will only be accessible via satellite to a smaller %age of the population)

This will then place the BBC in a dangerously monopolistic position as a news provider for the majority of the viewing audience, at a time when it is being increasingly criticised for its perceived inbuilt bias. Many commentators have remarked that although the BBC considers itself to be fully impartial, it has a series of 'unconscious' biases that are probably unavoidable given the narrow base that it recruits from.

I believe that an active democracy needs a multiplicity of news providers to ensure that the public discussion of events is fully informed, open and freely available to the widest audience possible. May I suggest that one of Ofcom's duties is to ensure this is done to the fullest possible extent.

Thank you for the opportunity of putting this objection. Please let me know if you require any further clarification or an alternative method of submission.

M J Littlewood