

Consultation title: Ofcom's Public Service Broadcasting Review, Phase 2: Preparing for the Digital Future

I use the Irish language on a daily basis and would like to see that the BBC provides more Irish Language content as part of its public broadcasting responsibilities. I feel that our fellow Celtic Languages have a much higher level of provision.

I believe the indigenous languages of these isles should take a higher priority and level of direct support than other national languages. Consequently, the Irish Language should receive a significant boost in terms of interest and support if the profile and recognition that it would receive if the BBC stated it gives whole hearted support for these minority languages.

The support should be in terms of a larger Irish Language Unit in Belfast and clearly stated levels of funding to commission more local content and output. The funding should be measured in terms of the relative support given to the Welsh language and Scottish Gaelic.

I would hope the Irish Unit could foster and engender local filming talent and production. Perhaps, through imaginative contacts with the thriving Irish-medium education sector. The BBC could help support the appreciation of the language amongst the public and in particular our schools with targeted programming for the Irish-medium schools and programs for those pupils learning the language in English-medium schools.

In short, there is an opportunity for the BBC to recognise its responsibilities to address the demand from its citizens for a wide spectrum of quality programmes that welcomes diversity and cultural richness and plans to meet our local demand for Irish Language content.