

Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru The Presbyterian Church of Wales Adran Eglwys a Chymdeithas Church and Society Department

Ysgrifennydd/Secretary:

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Ofcom Riverside House 2a Southwark Bridge Rd. LondonSE1 9HA

Dear Sir / Madam,

On behalf of the Church and Society Department of the Presbyterian Church of Wales I have been asked to urge you strongly to reconsider your recommendation that ITV Wales should be granted a significant reduction in its production of programmes in Wales, and that its news output be reduced by 20%.

This would lead to a lack of focus for ITV viewers in Wales, and deprive people of local news coverage. This is at the very time in which the identity of Wales is being enhanced through the work of the National Assembly and other institutions, and the opportunities for national debate are being increased.

Furthermore, unlike other parts of the U.K., there is little press coverage in Wales which reflects its national identity., thus information and debate are gleaned mainly through television. Under current recommendations, viewers would be reliant on the BBC to provide them with a forum to reflect and discuss social and political affairs, and there is a need for balance.

We are also disappointed that ITV Wales is no longer obliged to provide religious programmes. Whilst we are aware of the financial difficulties faced by ITV, we still feel that such a significant commercial channel should be expected to meet its public service obligations.

Yours sincerely,

G. Tudwal Jones Secretary

c. Ofcom Cymru

Copion goran, Olyn