

As a dedicated supplier of high-quality current affairs and documentary programming from the English regions, I feel very strongly that the UK needs a strong, independently-financed Channel 4 as a cornerstone of PSB. Its voice has from the outset been consistently independent of the BBC's. Whilst the BBC remains peerless in reflecting public consensus and providing high quality in many areas, Channel 4's ability to ask awkward questions of power, to develop new talent and to find original and new forms of expression has been an outstanding factor in the strength of British broadcasting and especially in the development of independent production in the UK as a whole and especially in the nations and regions.

Having served for many years at ITV and witnessed the striking decline in public service broadcasting, I have no doubt that placing Channel 4 under commercially-driven ownership would add nothing to public value, and, by adding another bottom-line-driven broadcaster to an overcrowded market-place, contribute to a further diminution in standards.

I am convinced by the case which Channel 4 makes about its future funding, and I strongly believe that C4 should be granted a new funding arrangement to enable it to plan as confidently as it can for the multimedia future.

Steve Boulton

Executive Producer

Steve Boulton Productions