



Our ref: IO/SK

June 16th 2008

Rhona Parry
PSB Review
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

Dear Rhona,

Re: HIV Support Centre, Belfast response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review - Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation

The HIV Support Centre, Belfast has three main services, which deal with education and prevention - our telephone helpline service, our training service and our information service. Collectively these services provide information on HIV, AIDS and general sexual health to over 4,000 people each year.

As you are aware, the main political parties in Northern Ireland have supported Local Public Service Television and signed the Early Day Motion 1013 which looks to *'the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to introduce a licence for the provision of local public service television during the rollout of digital switchover'*.
<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=35211&SESSION=891>

FOR INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT ON HIV AND SEXUAL HEALTH

CONFIDENTIAL FREEPHONE HELPLINE 0800 137 437

THE HIV SUPPORT CENTRE
The Warehouse

3rd Floor
7 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Tel: 02890249268 Fax: 02890329845



info@thehivsupportcentre.org.uk
www.thehivsupportcentre.org.uk

Charity No: XR54104

Company Number: NI27941

During the passage of the Communications Act, nine Northern Irish MPs supported *"the important contribution community media can make to social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal, citizens' participation, local democracy and lifelong learning and called on the Government to include specific measures for the further growth and development of community media which would include distinct licensing arrangements based on clear public service obligations, reservation of broadcast spectrum, guaranteed access to cable channels and the establishment of a community media fund to help finance start up, development and operating costs"*. (EDM13I6)

In response to your consultation we would recommend that Ofcom consider acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

In relation to the development of local television in Belfast, we should be grateful if Ofcom would support NvTv being carried on Freeview as a local public service broadcaster. Such a development would ensure that everyone in the city has access to a valuable local service and would support the efforts of those of us seeking to create a socially inclusive society as well as nurturing the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart".

Stuart Kirk

Information Officer

Email: stuart@thehivsupportcentre.org.uk