

Conway Mill



Conway Mill Preservation Trust Ltd

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Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
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London,
SE1 9HA.
PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk

June 16th 2008

Dear Ms. Parry,

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

Since the 1840s, the Conway Mill has played an important role in the economic and social life of West Belfast. Today Conway Mill is a vibrant community, economic, social and cultural centre in West Belfast. Through a long term community centered development strategy, our mission is to support the regeneration of West Belfast. Our arts and craft programme develops and supports the economic growth of the creative industries through marketing, advertising and promoting the creative cluster to the wider public and corporate markets.

In response to your consultation and in relation to your main objective of furthering the interests of citizen-consumers; in particular, developing "*a new broadcasting licensing regime to foster self-regulation and broaden citizen/consumer choice*" we would recommend that Ofcom considers acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

We know at first hand of the social and economic benefits that the arts and cultural film can deliver. Empowering citizens to become content providers and creating media which reflects and raises awareness of local issues and interests constitutes a valuable public service. It enhances skills, encourages a sense of place and ownership of the city and has the potential to foster greater citizenship.

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 the arts and community media sector to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely

Moya Hinds
Community Development Co-ordinator