



Donegall Pass Community Forum

Registered Charity No.: XR80283

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

9th June 08

Dear Rhona Parry,

Re: Donegall Pass Community Forum response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation

Donegall Pass Community Forum is a registered charity and the primary representative body for the Belfast inner city 'urban village' that is Donegall Pass. We facilitate and assist groups and agencies to further the regeneration of our local area and enhance the quality of life for all the people of the area.

Our work involves identifying the key priorities for developing the area. We provide a network for community groups and others working for the benefit of the area as well as raising awareness of the needs of our community and attracting investment and resources to meet those needs.

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 have worked with Northern Visions/NvTv on local television projects, which document the concerns of our local community and know at first hand the social benefits which community media and local television 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 the skills base, encourages a sense of place and ownership of the city and has the potential to foster greater citizenship.

Regarding aspects of work required to bring about a UK map of local and community television following analogue TV switch-off post 2010, we would request your assurance that no planning, at this stage, precludes a network of local digital multiplexes.



Department for
Social
Development
www.dsdni.gov.uk





"Our aim is to make a better and safer community for all"

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, it would bring the voice of marginalised communities and those at greatest disadvantage into the mainstream. It would also support the efforts of the community arts and media sector to nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Mansfield

Elaine Mansfield
Forum Development Manager

