



Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
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15/06/2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

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

Dublin Community Television (DCTV) is licensed under the Broadcasting Act 2001, Ireland. We collaborate with Northern Visions/NvTv and others in the development of community television on the island of Ireland, most notably through the Community Television Training Network. We have been on air for the past 12 months, available on the cable network in Dublin.

The principles of Dublin Community Television are empowerment, participation and diversity, supporting these in the community and in our own media activities. We enable practical sharing of resources and participation in programme making and networking, especially amongst marginalised groups, create new educational initiatives in community television and celebrate the diversity in our communities.

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>

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". (EDM1316)

In response to your consultation we would recommend, in the context of the review and relevant legislation and regulation, that Ofcom considers acceptance of local community television as public service broadcasters.

Dublin Community Television Society Ltd is a not-for-profit channel with membership open to all in Dublin, based on the principles of empowerment, participation and diversity.

Committee Members: S. Ó Siochrú (Chairperson), C. Murray, (Secretary), D. Byrne, R. Carr, N. Farren, M. Gillan L. Henson, E. Lynch, O. McGlinchey, T. Mullen, N. O'Donnell. Registered in Dublin, Ireland, No: 5310R: VAT 9560164L

Community Television is an opening up of the airwaves to the community at large to both produce and broadcast alternative programming which celebrates diversity and in which all can participate. Like Northern Visions/NvTv, Dublin Community Television is not-for-profit and involves communities in a long term development that enables communities to access training, equipment and resources to make programmes but also to participate in the running of the channel itself.

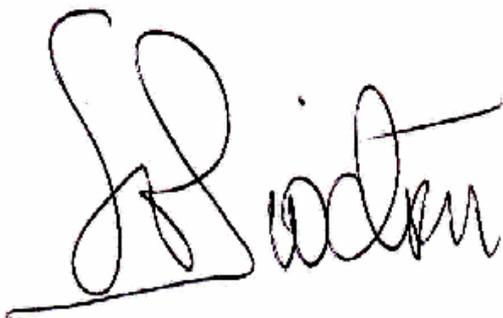
We believe that community media provides an essential counterbalance and an alternative to mainstream media. Empowering citizens to become content providers and creating media which reflects and raises awareness of local issues and interests constitutes a valuable public service. It enhances skills, encourages a sense of place and ownership of the city and has the potential to foster greater citizenship.

Central funding provisions have been made in the Communications Act for community radio and local digital television. Ofcom should consider a fund, which could potentially be drawn from the licence fee and from top-slicing commercial broadcasting licences or other central government sources.

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.

In relation to the development of local television in Belfast, we believe that Ofcom should support NvTv being carried on Freeview as a local public service broadcaster. Such a development would ensure that everyone in Belfast has access to a valuable local service and would support the efforts of those of us in the community television network in Ireland to ensure that we develop an effective means of communication in our communities and between our cities. I will also create an outlet for the creativity within our communities, to entertain, to celebrate, to state our needs and to build a socially inclusive society.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán Ó Siochrú', written in a cursive style.

Seán Ó Siochrú
Chairperson

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