



Rhona Parry,
PSB Review,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London, SE1 9HA.
PSBReview@ofcom.org.uk

June 12th 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

Re: North Belfast Interface Network (NBIN) response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation

North Belfast Interface Network (NBIN) was established in 2002 by community organisations to develop a strategic response to interface violence and to mainstream community relations' work in North Belfast. We aim to improve understanding and to develop better relations within and between our communities.

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.

Cross-interface work to date has largely been premised on fire fighting initiatives designed to reduce the levels of violence on or at interfaces. The violence at interfaces has changed dramatically in nature, moving from inter-communal conflict to a significantly youth based problem. Whilst it may no longer be the head-line grabbing conflict witnessed in passed years, this low intensity yet high frequency violence from young people has the very real potential to destabilise relationships which have been developed by interface workers from both sides of the community.

We believe that it is important to communicate our work and the issues in our community to a wide audience. We have worked with Northern Visions/NvTv on programming about the issues faced by interface communities in Belfast and we appreciate 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

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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 all of us who are working to end intolerance and lack of understanding of 'the other' to create a socially inclusive society. Such a development would also nurture the city's cultural and creative assets and talent.

As someone who can access NvTv programmes I am aware of the great work they are doing in getting important messages out on a wide range of issues that are relevant to our community. I would fully support them.

Yours sincerely,
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