

Rhona Parry,  
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June 11th, 2008

Dear Rhona Parry,

**Re: Nerve Centre, Derry response to the consultation: Ofcom's Second Public Service Broadcasting Review – Phase One: The Digital Opportunity consultation**

The Nerve Centre was established in 1990 as a focal point for youth culture in Derry, Northern Ireland's second city. By bringing popular music, film, video, animation and interactive multimedia together under one roof, the Nerve Centre promotes creative collaboration and fusion between artists and provides a cultural outlet for many young people who feel excluded from what is traditionally regarded as the "arts sector".

Currently, over 100,000 people benefiting from the work of the centre across its various events, programmes and projects. 40,000 people attend music concerts at the centre, a further 15,000 attend film events, 10,000 are engaged in a proactive educational programme including a cultural diversity programme.

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 are partners with Northern Visions/NVTV in Film NI and have first hand experience of the social and artistic benefits that cultural film, music and the arts can deliver.

Empowering citizens of all ages 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.

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 cultural film sector to nurture the creative assets and talent in our society.

Yours sincerely

Pearse Moore  
Chief Executive