

**1. Do you agree that securing plural sources of impartial news for the Nations, locally and in the regions should be a key priority?**

Yes	<b>yes</b>
No	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

Commercial television should be equally able to provide news coverage relevant to the area served under their franchise as part of that franchise

**2. Do you agree that sustainable, impartial news in the Nations, locally and in the regions is likely to require some top-up public funding?**

Yes	
No	<b>NO</b>

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

The bid for the franchise was formulated with the news quotient as part of the bid. It is for the ITV company to find revenue for that which it was so eager to bid for. ITV seem able to continue to find huge amounts for light entertainment and purchase of sports rights. I don't see why the licence fee should be used to further enhance ITV's capacity to drive up market prices by bankrolling news coverage. Local news coverage is an essential part of output. It drives audience share, if ITV wish to benefit from the audience share in terms of advertising rates then they should be wholly funding the output, as they would for any other area of programming

**3. Do you agree that the Television Licence Fee should be used to support impartial news in the Nations, locally and in the regions in addition to BBC services?**

Yes	
No	<b>NO</b>

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

ITV are able to pay huge salaries to presenters and performers and yet plead poverty when it comes to producing news content. This is one reason that the merger of the former ITV companies was a retrograde step for viewers. ITV have the money, we were told that the merger of the "independants" would lead to cost savings and better quality, but this has not

proven so. It is time ITV were brought to heel in terms of thier willingness to pay over the odds to secure rights/artistes, this would have a beneficial effect on BBC finances taking some of the "heat" out of the market in financial terms. It might be good for ITV to learn to live within thier means rather than carrying on paying out huge sums for light entertainment and sport while pleading poverty for funding for news output.

**4. Do you agree that any funding within a contained contestable element of the television licence fee not required for impartial news should potentially be available to fund other forms of essential public service content, or should such funding be limited to news?**

Yes	
No	<b>NO</b>

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

My position is that the licence fee cannot be used to support commercial networks.

**5. Are there alternative funding mechanisms that you believe would deliver the above objectives more effectively?**

Yes	
No	<b>NO</b>

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

Beyond ITV learning to live within its means as BBC has had to. In recent days we have seen stories of salary cuts for BBC performers - no such news has surfaced from the ITV camp. It is time for ITV to pull in its belt. I have no interest in seeing the BBC starved of cash in order to support the low quality output from the bloated ITV empire. They are a commercial organisation - let them stand on thier own feet!

**6. Do you agree with the proposal to set a maximum percentage of Television Licence Fee revenue which could be set aside as a contained contestable element?**

Yes	
No	<b>NO</b>

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

I do not agree that the licence taxation should be used to benefit Commercial broadcasters.

**7. Do you agree that amending the BBC Agreement could provide the necessary protection to the BBC's future funding and independence?**

Yes	
No	<b>NO</b>

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

I see the syphoning off of licence revenues as WEAKENING the BBC. It must NOT happen. There is no justification for taxing my viewing to subsidise a commercial broadcaster who cannot meet thier obligations in some areas of programming due to out of control expenditure in others

**8. Do you agree that the use of any contained contestable element within the Television Licence Fee should be restricted to the public purposes set out in the BBC Charter?**

Yes	<b>Yes</b>
No	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

I do however feel that the licence tax should not be used to shore up a failing independant sector. The viability - or lack of - is directly related to the declining quality in ITV programming evident since the demise of Thames Television, and the Merger of LWT into the structure that we have today - Hardly "independant" it is whining about being dependant on monies from taxation levied on the use of a tv set.