

# Communications Commission

## *Oaseirys Çhellinsh*

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Ms Maria Schlee  
Media Team  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
5th Floor  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London SW1Y 5DH

Our Ref:2089.TVL.CMCL/TB

22 September 2009

Dear Ms Schlee

**Re: Digital Britain and Consultation on sustainable, independent and impartial news in the Nations, locally and in the regions**

I am writing in response to the Digital Britain Report and the above mentioned consultation.

Isle of Man residents pay the Television licence fee in full and therefore contribute to the funding of the BBC. So as you would appreciate, any proposals to change the method of allocation for the funding going forward, for example in the form of providing a contestable element for independent news consortia, is expected to directly affect the Isle of Man and residents would expect to share any benefits. However, the Island may consider that it is in our best interests to have any contestable element refunded back to the Island, to be used to support our local media or for Island residents to benefit directly through a reduction in the licence fee.

We also note that the Digital Britain Report proposed that the Digital Switchover Help Scheme under spend should be used to help fund the roll out of universal broadband in the UK. The Isle of Man has its own policies and legislation with regards to telecommunications and broadband and would expect any surplus to be apportioned back to the Isle of Man.

Before any decisions which would affect the Island directly such as this are taken, it is normal for the UK Ministry of Justice to consult the Isle of Man Government. I am therefore copying this letter to the Chief Secretary of the Isle of Man Government.

I am more than happy to discuss further the issues raised and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of your consultations.

Yours sincerely

Dr Carmel McLaughlin  
Director