

The Film Agency of Wales delivers, for a small annual public amount of Lottery funding (£750'000) a very ambitious number of films, documentary and fiction. We have been involved with 17 productions in the 3 years of our existence. Any nation will have aspirations to provide a variety of cultural and commercial projects ..Currently on television a wide service is provided in the Welsh language, albeit via a monopolistic structure, and now since the virtual demise of English language PSB programming on itvWales the English speakers are disenfranchised. as the Welsh provision in English is extremely limited. The service of our new devolved democracy is being undermined by this inequality of provision. The Agency does what it can with very limited funds but it is now essential that public funding is directed to this purpose, opening opportunities for a range of companies and agencies like ourselves to contribute culturally and commercially to the creation of a diverse and disruptive audio-visual culture. It has always been understood that diversity and plurality mean more than News provision. In fact the current provision on BBC Wales and itvWales could be seen as failing in that requirement, and therefore I would support a review of the current provision.

Technologically and culturally (i.e. post-devolution) the situation has changed and a tick-box exercise of providing just a News alternative is a response based in Twentieth Century thinking. There are now a range of means of production and distribution, such as D cinema, DVD, and internet that have to be considered as part of the mix for News and "other" programming. The Film Agency for Wales has experience and expertise and access to funding, both private and public which should be a part of the mix.

I would therefore like to support the idea of a "pilot" for News provision in Wales as an alternative to the BBC but also a "pilot" for the provision of "other" programming using the expertise of the Film Agency to support alternative production and distribution.