

The Department will no doubt be in possession of a copy of the submission previously made by the Scottish Daily Newspaper Society, representing seven major publishing groups – D C Thomson & Co Ltd, Aberdeen Journals, Herald & Times Group, Scottish Daily Record & Sunday Mail Ltd, The Scotsman Publications Ltd, Associated Newspapers and News International Newspapers (Scotland) Ltd – in response to the Ofcom Review of Local Media.

The SDNS adheres to the views contained in that submission, in particular the key point in paragraph 8 making clear that the Society does not seek public subsidy for newspapers nor does it believe that local radio or television should receive subsidy to provide news. Both groups have the same problems to the extent of financial pressures caused by the migration of advertising to the internet and the economic downturn. It would therefore be a serious distortion of the market if regional television news was to be selectively subsidised to the detriment of the newspaper sector. Fair competition can only be maintained by ensuring that all sectors of the media compete on a level playing field to the extent that is possible given the uniquely privileged position of the BBC through its income stream from the television licence fee..

Jim Raeburn  
Director, Scottish Daily Newspaper Society