

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	
No	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

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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	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

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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	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

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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	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

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

Yes	
No	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

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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	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

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

Yes	
No	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

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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	X
No	

Comment (max. 4000 characters)

We cannot comment on any of the funding options suggested in this consultation but we agree that if government decides to use a contestable funding element within the Television Licence Fee, it should be only for these public purposes. In particular, we would like to see how these proposals will promote and champion skills and talent within the industry (which are part of the BBC Charter public purposes) and, in that case, we will expect the government to implement the recommendations and thinking articulated on Digital Britain, particularly paragraphs 78 to 81 (page 184) of Chapter 6 of the Final Report which proposes that:

“(78) The new opportunities for local news gathering, community based initiatives in radio and online, and the development of local and regional consortia, offer tantalising opportunities to create new models for regional and even local training hubs.

79. The Government proposes that the pilots of local news consortia include the development of appropriate partnerships with local FE and HE and other appropriate local partners to enable them to act as training hubs and entry points at local level to journalism and other digital news jobs.

80. In the longer term, the creation of local news consortia could change the balance of training and job opportunities by creating centres of training and career guidance at a wide selection of local and regional centres. The local hubs should develop clear pathways and links to regional providers, taking advantage of professional training opportunities co-ordinated by Skillset or public service content and news providers.

81. The challenge is to create a new culture of local and regional training, fair and transparent entry points and erode the old privileges of unpaid internships, access to which can be a matter of who you know rather than what you know.”

Moreover, we will expect the recipients of such funding to engage with Skillset and support the sector skills strategies, as articulated by the industry.