

Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Glenn Preston Director, Ofcom Scotland

9 October 2025

Dear Glenn

STV's Central and North Scotland licences

Thank you for your letter dated 6th October in relation to Ofcom's role in response to STV's proposed changes in news provision. The Committee heard from the trade unions and from STV on the proposed changes at our meeting this morning. A number of issues were discussed and the Committee agreed to draw your attention to the transcript of the meeting which will be published next week. The clerks will send you a link once it is published on our web pages.

One of the issues we discussed was the requirement for Ofcom to consult on the proposed changes to STV's Central and North Scotland licences. The Committee notes that your public consultation principles includes: "When setting the length of the consultation period, we will consider the nature of our proposals and their potential impact." Given the significant potential impact of STV's proposals, the Committee's view is that the length of the consultation period needs to be commensurate with the level of public interest in the proposals.

The Committee also invites Ofcom to appear before us within the consultation period, noting that our next meeting is on 30th October 2025. The committee clerks can be contacted to discuss potential dates and timings.

We are copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Scottish Affairs Committee, the Culture, Media and Sport Committee and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Clare Adamson MSP

Convener

Contact: Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email CEEAC.Committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.