



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

3rd Meeting, 2012 (Session 4)

Tuesday 24 January 2012

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 6.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether its consideration of its work programme should be taken in private at future meetings.
2. **Broadcasting:** The Committee will take evidence, in round table format, from—

John Boothman, Head of News and Current Affairs, BBC Scotland;

Stuart Cosgrove, Director of Creative Diversity, Channel 4;

Paul Holleran, Scottish Organiser, NUJ Scotland;

Gordon MacMillan, Head of News, Scotland, STV;

Iain MacWhirter, Journalist.

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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda Item 1

Written Evidence

EC/S4/12/3/1

Education and Culture Committee

3rd Meeting, 2012 (Session 4), Tuesday, 24 January 2012

Broadcasting Round Table

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 20 December 2011, the Committee agreed to have a round table discussion on broadcasting with the following theme: To consider how effectively public service broadcasters in Scotland are meeting their PSB obligations, particularly in terms of news and current affairs output.

Written Evidence

2. The following written evidence was received by the Committee:

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BBC Scotland News and Current Affairs

1. BBC Scotland News and Current Affairs Hours: Statistics

Television

In 2010/11, BBC Scotland broadcast 513 hours of televised news and current affairs on BBC One/BBC Two Scotland. This compares with 504 hours in 09/10; 504 hours in 08/09; 480 hours in 07/08 and 491 hours in 06/07.

In addition, 185 hours of news were broadcast on BBC ALBA in the past year (30% of a total of 616 hours of originated programmes i.e. not repeats).

BBC Scotland also regularly contributes to BBC network News output, across television, radio and online and the recommendations of the *King Report* have resulted in significant increases in collaboration and consultation between BBC News and the BBC News operations across the Nations and Regions of the UK.

Radio

On radio, there has been a similar pattern of increased news hours over the past five years. In 2010/11, Radio Scotland broadcast 3301 hours of news and current affairs. That compares with 3219 hours in 09/10; 3155 in 08/09; 2929 in 07/08 and 2632 in 06/07.

On Radio nan Gaidheal, news hours amounted to 654 in 2010/11; 659 hours in 09/10; 626 hours in 08/09; 640 hours in 07/08 and 633 hours in 06/07.

Online

BBC Scotland's Online news content attracts 2.56m UK Unique Browsers per week (average based on the period weeks 35-52, 2011 – a new reporting system was launched in September 2011). Figures reached a new record of 4.26m unique users in the week of the December storm (8/12/11).

BBC Scotland Investigates

BBC Scotland's Investigations Team offers the only broadcast investigative programming in Scotland and continues to develop and extend the range of issues with which it deals.

In the past year BBC Scotland produced 19 separate (30 and 60 minute) televised Investigations programmes for Scotland and three network *Panoramas*.

Subjects covered within our televised Investigations output included *Who Needs Trident?*, *Bombs, Bigotry and Football*, *Scotland's Property Scandal*, *The Great Tram Disaster*, *Portillo on Scotland* and *Rangers: the Inside Story*.

Smoking and the Bandits (see below) originated as a *BBC Scotland Investigates* programme, attracting a Scotland audience of 490,000 and a 25% audience share;

Rangers: the Inside Story drew almost identical figures (497,000 and a 25% audience share).

The three UK network *Panorama* programmes covered subjects as diverse as fake cigarettes (*Smoking and the Bandits*), the quality of surgical instruments being used in the UK (*Surgery's Dirty Secrets*) and the multi-million pound UK black market in fuel (*The Great Fuel Robbery*).

Smoking and the Bandits attracted a UK audience of 3.1million viewers (11.8% share), *Surgery's Dirty Secrets* drew 2.2m viewers and 8.9% share and *The Great Fuel Robbery* attracted 3.5 million viewers and 13.1% share.

Local output

Local communities and local government remain integral to the BBC's radio news output and coverage has been strengthened by the introduction of the weekday 5.30am *Morning Briefing* programme.

A regional round-up has recently been introduced to the main *Reporting Scotland* bulletin. This serves to augment the local coverage currently afforded, for example, via the radio opts (Orkney, Shetland, Inverness, Aberdeen, Selkirk & Dumfries) and the online Scotland news pages.

2. Election coverage

The Scottish Parliament Election coverage in May 2011 included four pre-election televised debates, including a Leaders' Debate, on BBC One Scotland. The four debates reached 780,000 viewers. On-the-night coverage of the results as they came in reached 550,000 viewers.

Online, 2 million UK unique users came to the Scotland News site in the week of the election, generating 8.5 million page impressions, with 3 million page impression generated alone on the day following the election (Friday 6 May 2011). Across the 5th and 6th May, BBC Scotland provided 17 hours of live TV election output, 17 hours live radio output and constant updates online.

In advance of – and prior to reporting of - the election, News editors from across the BBC came to Edinburgh to meet MSPs to ensure better understanding of devolved issues.

3. Audiences

The combined weekly reach of all BBC Scotland TV bulletins increased from 51% (2009/10) to 54% (2.24m of those 16 yrs+) in 2010/11.

The average audience for *Reporting Scotland* in 2011 was 530,000. The Ofcom *Communications Market Report 2011* indicates that it remains the most watched news programme in Scotland, attracting a 29% share of viewing – the same as the UK average.

Audiences for *Reporting Scotland* continued to rise and the severe weather, in December 2010 and again in December 2011 and in January 2012, produced some of the highest viewing figures for the programme in a decade. On January 3, 2012, the lunchtime edition of *Reporting Scotland* attracted its highest audience (583,000) since (at least) 2001 and the 6.30pm edition attracted its second highest audience (901,000) over the same period.

On the same day, BBC Radio Scotland attracted twice the normal number of daily UK iPlayer requests. And traffic to News Scotland Online was well above average, with over a million UK Unique Browsers on the day.

On Radio Scotland, in 2011, *Good Morning Scotland* had an average weekly reach of around 460,000 listeners and programmes such as *Brian Taylor's Big Debate* and *Call Kaye* continue to prove very popular with listeners. News and current affairs output on the station has a weekly reach of around 670,000 listeners.

4. Delivering Quality First

The BBC's Delivering Quality First (DQF) initiative is both a response to the current Licence Fee settlement (frozen until 2017) and a strategic approach to remodelling the organisation to ensure it is able to respond to the requirements of digital broadcasting.

Financially, the overall impact of a 16% reduction in budget will impact on BBC Scotland as it will on all other parts of the BBC. In Scotland, £16m will come off of our annual local budget (of £102m) by 2017. This, we envisage, will result in the loss of around 100 – 120 posts by that time.

In News, in Scotland, the impact will be as set out below:

- Quality will not suffer, nor will overall hours.
- Radio Scotland's *Newsweek* programme (Saturdays, 1x60') will be replaced by a 1 x 120' programme.
- *Scotland at Ten* (which runs 3 x 30' + a repeat of First Minister's Questions) will stop in the current run.
- On the above, FMQs are available on the BBC Democracy Live website, live on Radio Scotland (and on-demand on the BBC Radio Player and on the BBC iPlayer) and live & repeated (3 to 4 times) on BBC Parliament. FMQs are also live on BBC Two Scotland TV.
- A new radio current affairs programme will be introduced on Saturday mornings on Radio Scotland (in addition to the *Newsweek* replacement) – this is currently in planning.
- There will be more regular daily politics slots within the daily News and Current Affairs (NCA) radio output (which currently sits at 7 hours+ per day on average).
- We will be looking at changes to our party conference coverage as part of overall savings requirements.
- On staff, as result of changes at *Scotland at Ten*, 2 posts will be lost as will 1 further News production post in Edinburgh.

- In Glasgow, 8 posts lost in News radio production amongst broadcast journalist/senior broadcast journalist categories. In total, we envisage that around 30 News posts will be lost over the next 5 years, out of c. 240 workforce in that area.
- As part of this change, staff will be required to work across NCA output rather than, as present, dedicated to particular programmes (in line with the rest of BBC) – this will offer greater flexibility in how we use our staff resources.
- There will no cuts in our local radio content or in staff.
- We will, where possible and appropriate, look to voluntary redundancies and to redeployment of staff, with the interests of audiences maintaining precedence.

Ian Small
Head of Public Policy & Corporate Affairs
BBC Scotland

STV Group plc (“STV”)

Background

STV has developed from its roots as the commercial public service broadcaster for Scotland to become a leading digital innovator with a strong commitment to delivery of high quality public service content.

This metamorphosis has largely been achieved in the last four years following the appointment of a new board and chief executive and subsequent change in strategy away from a previous course that left the company heavily indebted and on the brink of financial collapse. The reinvention of STV has been achieved through selling off non-core assets, focussing on the main STV business in Scotland and developing a complementary digital strategy.

STV is committed to being an innovative commercial public service broadcaster (with Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) listing; gifted spectrum; universality on Digital Terrestrial television (DTT)). But our vision extends to a future PSB remit delivering across multi-platforms. Channel 3 has evolved over its history. That is a dynamic process and we believe it still offers the best solution – a nationwide competitive system with scale which can provide strong regional content and responsiveness to differing audience needs.

STV is committed to innovative locally produced regional news:

- We have provided more localised news within our evening news programmes since 2007;
- STV provides the most locally-focussed television news service in the UK, with audience share up by more than 10% this year alone;
- We have recently extended our news offering by launching the only peak time evening news programme produced and presented from the Scottish capital as well as the other key cities of Glasgow and Aberdeen together with a weekday opt-out presented from Dundee;
- We have recently increased our commitment to news and current affairs, launching *Scotland Tonight* in October 2011, a nightly news and current affairs programme broadcast across Scotland four nights a week including three distinct regional news bulletins;
- STV produced comprehensive coverage of both the 2010 general election and the 2011 Holyrood election campaigns, including leaders’ debates and full overnight results programmes;
- STV will review the opportunities provided by City TV licences to bring more localised services to audiences across Scotland;
- STV has a vision for future news delivery in Scotland that is relevant, distinctive and sustainable.

STV is committed to relevant, high profile regional non-news programming:

- Non-news programming continues to have an important place within our schedule, particularly in peak time;

- Over the past few years we have produced a wide range of content including landmark series such as *The Scots Who Fought Franco* about Scottish connections to the Spanish Civil War and *Born Fighting*, tracing Scots-Irish contributions towards shaping America;
- Our programming, particularly in current affairs plays an important role in the democratic process – STV’s comprehensive coverage of the 2010 Westminster and 2011 Holyrood elections was widely praised.

STV Local:

- We have invested behind a network of hyper local websites each serving a discrete community. There are currently 22 STV Local sites across Scotland each serving unique news and information and enabling local voices to be heard by encouraging dialogue and contribution. Our vision for full rollout spans 100 different STV Local sites for individual communities across Scotland.

Current PSB content:

2011 has been a year of strong news stories and increasing share for STV News, as we have expanded and improved our service, delivering the most local service in the UK.

We recognise the demand for comprehensive and engaging local services, which are commercially sustainable, and are committed to delivering this across platforms via an ambitious and comprehensive service.

In May 2011, we announced the trial of a new technology platform allowing us to launch a brand new service dedicated to Edinburgh and the East of Scotland and extending our total on-air news offering to three distinct 30-minute programmes at 6pm, with a bulletin for the Dundee and Tayside area. The pilot was a great success and in October 2011 we confirmed that we would continue with the service on a permanent basis. STV news operations around the country retain full editorial control over the output in their respective regions.

STV’s audience share at 6pm has gone from strength to strength, increasing 10% year on year (Jun-December) across Scotland, with around half a million viewers watching each weeknight, and the on-air service reaching over 1.7m viewers per week¹. News is one of the most popular areas of our website, with over half a million unique users visiting stv.tv/news each month.

The success and popularity of the pilot programme for the East has reinforced the fact that there is such a strong appetite for local news in Scotland and by providing tailored services, across platforms, this has allowed us to strengthen the relationship with our viewers even further.

Following the success of the STV News iPhone app, STV launched its first Android app in August 2011, providing news, sport, entertainment and weather. By end 2011, the

¹ Source: BARB

STV News app had been downloaded over 120,000 times. This was closely followed by the launch of the STV player on Android tablets and phones, making this popular service now available via computer, Smart phones and PS3.

A significant event for STV News team was the 2011 Holyrood election campaign, of which we provided extensive and comprehensive coverage. Our coverage included a 7-hour long live programme from polling stations across Scotland, which was STV's biggest outside broadcast; two live leaders debates and a one-hour news special the day after the vote. The Survey findings and leaders debates were widely picked up by the Scottish media, with STV driving the news agenda and leading the headlines.

On 8 December, STV reported its strongest online performance and exceptional audience share for news programming as a result of the extreme weather in Scotland, demonstrating our reach and connection with its audience.

News coverage of the storm saw STV breaking all previous record highs with users flocking to the site and evening news programme to view footage and updates on the disruption caused by the weather.

STV's news programme *STV News at Six* achieved a record audience, which was almost double the Network share. The programme achieved an extraordinary average audience of almost 800k viewers (37% audience share).

More than 184,000 viewers tuned into current affairs programme, *Scotland Tonight*, which focused on the weather as its top story and discussion point.

STV online saw its best ever single day of traffic. Total unique browsers hit 556k, over twice STV's previous record of 263k during the 2010 Big Freeze. By way of comparison, the average number of daily unique browsers for November was 151k. The website saw almost 2 million page impressions, again double its previous best of 856k in December 2010. The average number of daily page impressions on the STV website in November was 574k. Total videos views reached a new one day high of 405k.

We continue to provide a contracted newsgathering/Scotland correspondent service for ITN.

Current Affairs

For the first half of 2011, our weekly programme *Politics Now* provided high quality coverage of a wide range of issues on Thursday evenings. Hosted by Bernard Ponsonby, the show's rigorous questioning of senior politicians was complemented by insightful and engaging studio discussions.

In October 2011, STV launched *Scotland Tonight*, a news and current affairs programme bringing viewers across Scotland an in-depth look at the big news stories of the day along with politics, sports, business, arts, entertainment, live studio guests and

special features. *Scotland Tonight* is a fresh and exciting approach to news and current affairs, providing a Scottish perspective on the issues that are important to people in Scotland.

Hosted by John MacKay (STV News at Six anchor) and Rona Dougall (ex-Sky News Scotland correspondent), *Scotland Tonight* airs live every night from Monday to Thursday at 10.30pm and has featured interviews with a range of guests from the First Minister to Donald Trump.

The programme considers the issues that are important to people in Scotland and as such, viewers are encouraged to interact with the show each evening. A dedicated website, www.stv.tv/scotlandtonight, provides the agendas and discussion points for the show, alongside a dedicated Facebook and Twitter page allowing viewers to interact with the show live and immediately.

The new programme allows us to build on the success of our already ambitious news offering via STV News, stv.tv, STV Local, STV News apps and our popular election coverage, further demonstrating our increasing commitment to news and current affairs.

STV's current PSB obligations

STV's PSB obligations are set out in its broadcast licences, which are a responsibility of the media regulator Ofcom. We have two licences; one for Central Scotland, the other for North Scotland.

For each licence, STV is required to deliver 4 hours/week of news with 25 minutes of sub regional news. We significantly over-deliver on local news and this year we will deliver twice as much micro-regional news across Scotland as our licences require.

We deliver three main news programmes at 6pm daily, whereas our licence requires only two.

Our regional current affairs quota is 33 minutes per week. With the introduction of *Scotland Tonight* Mondays to Thursday, we deliver almost double that - an hour a week. (*Scotland Tonight* qualifies as 50% news, 50% current affairs.)

For additional information, we also significantly over-deliver on non-news programming, the quota being 1.5 hours per week.

Ofcom

Introduction

We welcome the invitation to submit evidence for this round table discussion. In this submission we have focussed on Ofcom's role in terms of assessing how effectively public service broadcasters in Scotland are meeting their obligations, particularly in terms of news and current affairs. Given that the discussion may cover other aspects of public service broadcasting (PSB), we also refer to other programme genres and to other providers of public service content in Scotland.

Our General Role

Ofcom is the independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries, with responsibilities across television, radio, telecommunications, wireless communications and postal services. The primary duty set for us by the UK Parliament in the Communications Act 2003 is to further the interests of citizens and consumers. Our role in relation to citizens is reflected in a large number of specific duties, including promoting the fulfilment of the purposes of public service television broadcasting in the UK. Ofcom licenses all UK commercial television services.

Broadcasting

We are required by the Communications Act to review public service broadcasting at least once every five years, and to make recommendations about how its quality can be maintained and strengthened. In doing so, our focus is on audiences' needs: both understanding them, and ensuring they continue to be met as changes take place in the media landscape. The Communications Act specifies which services are public service channels, defines a public service remit for those channels and the licence obligations we can impose on them.

We conducted our first PSB Review in three phases during 2004-05. The third phase was published on 8 February 2005, followed by a final statement on programming for the nations and regions, published on 9 June 2005. We concluded that there was continued demand for PSB but that the existing model of ensuring it was provided by commercially funded channels would not survive the transition to a wholly multichannel world unchanged. We recognised a need to balance the value of licence benefits with the cost of PSB obligations. Without this balance, there is no incentive for commercial public service broadcasters to retain their public service licences.

The review concluded that there was a continued requirement for programming that reflected the distinct identities, cultures, histories and interests of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It was noted that this requirement was not likely to be met by UK-wide programming alone, nor by reducing minimum requirements on regional programming in the nations in line with our decisions for the English regions.

Following our first PSB Review, the UK's media landscape evolved rapidly and continues to do so: viewer adoption of digital technology has grown significantly;

- multichannel television has reduced audience sizes for all broadcasters; and
- there has been a corresponding fall in television advertising expenditure as advertisers have looked elsewhere to make an impact with their target consumers.

We announced in May 2007 that we would bring forward our second PSB Review based on this and other evidence, which highlighted the considerable uncertainties for commercial public service broadcasters more generally. The first phase was published on 10 April 2008, followed by the second phase on 25 September the same year. A final statement was published on 21 January 2009 - http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/psb2_phase2/statement-short-term/

As a result of the PSB Review the requirement for news programmes on STV, UTV and ITV Wales was reduced to 4 hours per week. Within the quotas in all the devolved nations, the requirements for peak and near peak transmission were retained, reflecting the continuing need to maintain public service output at the most suitable times for audiences. The requirements for current affairs were also retained. Ofcom also allowed the merger of various news services including Border and TyneTeles.

It should be noted that the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport has proposed amending or removing several of our duties through the Public Bodies Act 2011 to return the policy-setting role to the Secretary of State, reduce unnecessary expenditure and avoid duplication. These proposals include amending our duty to review PSB every five years so that a review will only be conducted at the discretion of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will also determine the scope of the review.

Licence Obligations

In the light of our PSB Reviews, this table shows some of the main quotas set by Ofcom under Communications Act

Quota – hrs per week or Percentage	Channel 3	Channel 4	Five
National (UK) news overall	7h	4h	7h 50m
National news in peak	2h 24m	4h	1h 55m
Current affairs overall	50m	4h	2h 30m
Current affairs in peak	40m	1h 32m	12m
Regional news overall	3h 45m in England; 4h in nations*		
Regional news in peak	2h 15m in England; 2h 30m in nations		
Regional non-news overall	15m in England; 1h 30 m for STV (of which 33m of current affairs)		
Regional non-news in peak/near peak	14m in England; 1h 15m in nations		
Regional programmes produced in region	Varies by region from 70 to 99%		

(* STV must also transmit at least 5 minutes of regional programmes broadcast at 6.00pm on each weekday [or on average not less than 25 minutes per week] consisting of sub-regional news devoted to different parts - i.e. sub-regional - of its licensed areas.

Licensees are free to transmit more than their minimum requirements.
Peak time is defined as 1800-2230hrs).

PSB Measurement

Our research programme provides granular information for Scotland, where appropriate. For the last six years, we have published Communications Market Reports for the nations. We report on the expenditure and volume both for TV programmes specifically made for Scottish viewers and for networked shows made in Scotland. We also report on the performance of news programmes. We also monitor the performance of public service broadcasters against their out-of-London quotas.

The Communications Market Report for Scotland for 2011 can be seen at: <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/market-data/communications-market-reports/cmr11/scotland/>. The key points for broadcasting were:

- The number of hours produced specifically for viewers in Scotland was up 14% from 2009 to 1,881 hours compared to a 13% increase since 2005. This compares to a UK-wide average decline of 9% over this five-year period.
- The number of hours for non-news/non-current affairs in Scotland was up by 26% from 2009.
- Spend on qualifying first-run commissioned content in 2010 by PSB channels in Scotland accounted for 4.6 per cent of UK expenditure, up from 3.6 per cent of total expenditure in 2009.
- In terms of volume of network TV programming, producers in Scotland delivered 4.6 per cent of all first-run hours during 2010, up from 3.3 per cent twelve months earlier (and up from 1.6 per cent in 2006).
- Year-on-year spend by public service broadcasters on first-run original programming for viewers in Scotland also experienced a slight, one per cent increase to reach £52m in 2010.
- TV viewing remains high in Scotland, at an average of 4.5 viewing hours per day in 2010, compared to a UK average of 4 hours.

Ofcom also publishes PSB Annual Reports to provide an evidence base for assessing the delivery of PSB. It reports on licensees' compliance with their regional PSB obligations and the 2011 Annual Report can be found at:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/broadcast/reviews-investigations/psb-review/psb2010/psbcomp.pdf>

In 2010 STV exceeded its regional licence obligations.

BBC ALBA

This is a BBC-licensed service but given Ofcom's regulatory role in approving MG ALBA's Operational Plan and in making its board appointments, it is worth pointing out the contribution to public service content made by the channel. For example, in 2010 it

transmitted first run programming of 172 hours of news and 11 hours of current affairs in addition to 419 hours outwith these genres.

Local TV

The UK Government's policy is to introduce local TV stations into different areas of the UK including parts of Scotland. Ofcom has been providing technical guidance for the Government's work. Following implementation of the relevant legislation it is envisaged Ofcom would independently award the local TV licences through a competitive selection process. Once they are broadcasting, these services will contribute to local public service content.

Licensing of Channel 3

Ofcom has a duty to prepare a report for the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport explaining whether we consider the Channel 3 (and Channel 5) broadcast licences should be renewed after 2014.

On 1 July 2011, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport asked Ofcom to provide the Secretary of State with advice about the options for relicensing Channel 3 and Channel 5.

In the published paper containing this advice we said given the ever increasing importance of devolved institutions, we considered that securing a workable solution to plurality of news in the Nations represented a key consideration in determining the capability of existing licensees to contribute to the purposes of PSB.

The link for this paper is: <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/broadcast/tv-ops/licensing-c3-c5.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Engagement

Since Ofcom was established, we have engaged actively with the Scottish Government and Parliament on key broadcasting issues. For the record and as background, our specific engagement with the Scottish Parliament has included:

- attendance at the Enterprise and Culture Committee on our first PSB Review in June 2006,
- attendance at the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee on our second PSB Review in June 2008, and
- evidence to the Scotland Bill Committee on 25 October 2011 on various PSB issues. You can find our written submission for this at: http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ScotlandBillCommittee/Meeting%20Papers/Papers_20111025.pdf

Ofcom
January 2012

Herald & Times Group

BBC Scotland and STV serve an important role in the overall media mix in Scotland, one of the most competitive markets in the world with 17 daily newspapers as well as a diverse range of commercial and community radio stations, web sites, magazines and weekly newspapers. However, the large appetite for television viewing in Scotland does give them an important place in the media landscape and a particular responsibility for news and current affairs coverage.

We believe that generally BBC Scotland and STV do provide a reasonable range of cover in the current economic circumstances, with commercial pressures on STV and budget cuts within the BBC. However, rather than focus too narrowly on the current position it is important to review a sector where, although daily newspapers still attract more than one million buyers a day, changing technologies and habits are rapidly redefining the landscape.

Media convergence and the growth of transformational new devices will increasingly blur the lines between public service broadcasters and other media as currently viewed. This will inevitably change the relationship with audiences.

Internet-connected television sets will become ubiquitous. Thus Scottish newspaper company web sites will appear alongside live television and audiences will dart between the two, absorbing Scottish news and current affairs from diverse sources.

Tablet computers are proving an attractive and potentially revenue-generating substitute for print products among increasing numbers of readers. But tablets also allow access to BBC Scotland and STV on the same device.

Many users rely on smartphones for much of their news where public service and commercial providers intermingle seamlessly.

DCMS say they intend the first local television stations to be on air by the second half of 2013 with the first Scottish stations in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The licenses carry news and current affairs obligations.

We believe that maintaining diversity of coverage and a strong commercial media sector, underpinned by an enduring indigenous newspaper/digital press, is the key requirement as Scotland moves to increased devolution or independence.

The Herald & Times Group publishes The Herald, Sunday Herald and Evening Times and their associated digital products. It also owns the highly-successful s1 online advertising company, magazines and a modern print plant.

Tom D. Thomson
Group Managing Editor