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Joan McAlpine MSP

Convener
Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

14 June 2018

Dear Ms McAlpine,

Thank you for your letter of 11 June.

First of all thank you to you and your Committee for the opportunity to give evidence around STV's future strategy last week. Bobby and I sought to answer your questions fully and openly but I would still welcome the chance to meet with you directly to discuss our plans further. I will be in touch with your office to try to schedule.

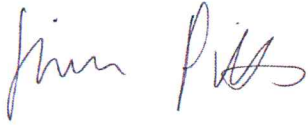
We have considered your request to be sent the report prepared by DMA Media which formed part of the context for the wider strategy announcement we made last month. The report was prepared specifically and solely for our plc Board and as such is commercially confidential. I'm afraid we are therefore not in a position to disclose it.

While I note the questions and opinions articulated by some committee members last week, I should also add that Ofcom, whom we have fully briefed on our strategy both before and after our announcement, has expressed no issues or concerns with our future plans in news or STV2, which require no regulatory change or discretion.

As I submitted to you at last week's evidence session, our strategy is designed to drive growth for STV as a PSB content provider, digital leader and world class producer. This is vital to securing the ongoing success of STV as a publicly traded business, which operates entirely commercially and with no public funding, and complies fully with the terms of its broadcast licences. But our success is also vital for the future prosperity of Scotland's television production sector, which has a great opportunity to thrive over the next few years but which currently underperforms the rest of the UK's creative economy, as your committee knows well from its recent enquiry.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Pitts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'P'.

Simon Pitts
Chief Executive