

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

18 June 2018

Dear Sigrid,

I am writing to reply to your request that I attend the forthcoming session of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee on Thursday, 28 June 2018 to give evidence on STV's strategic review.

Due to long-standing diary commitments - including an STV plc Board meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the STV Children's Appeal, both of which are scheduled to take place that day - I am unable to accept your invitation.

Regardless of this, the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee has already heard the evidence of STV Chief Executive Simon Pitts and Managing Director, Broadcast, Bobby Hain during its session on 7 June. I am satisfied that the extensive and detailed information and responses which both Simon and Bobby provided then gave Committee members a comprehensive overview of our business's three-year growth plan and increased level of investment, and also outlined both the importance of implementing our new strategy for the business and the outcome it will enable us to achieve – ensuring STV thrives in the future.

I confirm, in addition, that the evidence presented to the Committee on 7 June accurately and wholly reflects my views and those of my fellow Board members. Furthermore, in my letter to the Convener of the Committee in advance of that session, I highlighted the Board's endorsement of our new business strategy and commitment to invest significantly in the future of STV, as well as our unconditional support of the vision set out by Simon for positioning STV as a world-class independent broadcaster and producer of outstanding programming.

In view of these points, whilst I thank you for your invitation, I have no further evidence to add to the in-depth evidence with which the Committee has already been provided on our company's strategy and business plans.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Ford
Chairman, STV Group plc