

Dear Ofcom Review Team,

*I am writing in response to Ofcom's consultation on its review of regional TV production and programming guidance. I am disappointed that on-screen talent is excluded from the criteria for a production to qualify as regional (which includes those badged as produced in one of the UK's nations) and am writing to urge Ofcom to include opportunities for on-screen talent in its revised guidance and explanatory notes for public service broadcasters on regional TV production.*

*While Ofcom recognises on-screen talent as an important part of the production industry and the benefits of local casting initiatives, it is disappointing that the only reference in the amended guidance to on-screen talent is that it's exempt from the criteria.*

*I live outside of London due to my mental health, as I find the hustle and bustle of city life has more negatives for me than positives. Additionally the cost of living in London compared to Gloucester (where I live and work) makes it an understanding economical option. I will travel to London for auditions when the dates are at least a week in advance, but am surprised when I audition for a job for a production which I was closer to before I left my house.*

*A huge diversity of performing talent resides in the regions, and local castings and auditions give performers in the regions an opportunity to be seen and considered for work near where they live. It also opens up employment opportunities to a broader and more diverse range of talent, including those with caring and parental responsibilities.*

*The purpose of this regulatory structure is to strengthen regional production centres and creative and cultural economies across the UK, including helping to disperse job opportunities in the sector; actors and performers are a key part of their regional creative economies and are a significant factor in the success of productions.*

*I urge you to include opportunities for on-screen talent in the guidance and explanatory notes on regional production, and look forward to your response to this consultation.*

Yours sincerely,

Xander Black (Stage name)

Ian Black (Legal name)