

Local casting should be a key component of regional TV production, but often programmes labelled 'BBC Scotland', 'BBC Wales' and 'BBC Northern Ireland' have few, if any, opportunities for performers in the Nations to appear in them. Performers living in the nations and regions of the UK often struggle to find enough opportunities to sustain a career and should be considered for work close to where they live.

It was disappointing that in response to its review of regional TV production, Ofcom made no changes to its guidance for a production to qualify as 'Out of London' that would include front-of-screen talent. Indeed, the only reference to on-screen talent in its amended guidance is that it is exempt from the criteria. If producers are not required to undertake at least one local casting session, we fear front-of-screen talent will not be considered. Indeed, research commissioned by Ofcom made clear the extent to which TV production in the regions and nations is driven by the legislative framework which ensures a suitable proportion of the productions public service broadcasters commission are made outside the M25; that what gets measured, gets managed, with the legal framework providing a vital boost to creative economies in the regions and nations of the UK.

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.

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 that Ofcom is currently consulting on and look forward to Ofcom's response to this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

**Lorne Boswell, National Organiser for Equity Scotland**  
**Pete Wishart MP**  
**Alison Thewliss MP**