

I would like to provide a statement of support for the Indie Club submission to the OFCOM consultation on the 'Review of Regional TV Production and Programming Guidance'.

The television industry is a growing part of the creative industries in the West Midlands, and is an important source of jobs. Ragdoll Production has been operating in the Midlands for over 30 years. In that time, we have created many opportunities of work both for local companies and employees. Sadly, in recent years we have seen a reduction in the local skill base for our industry as young people are drawn to the pull of London.

It is very important that the legislation in the Communications Act 2003, which demands that the Public Service Broadcasters invest in production centres around the UK is thoroughly regulated – especially as London has become such a dominant force in the sector.

OFCOM's review is very thorough and welcomed. The Oliver & Ohlbaum 'Regionality trends within the UK production sector' September 2018 is particularly useful, but the table on page 16 illustrates that after four years of more spending outside London, investment in the last two recorded years (2016 and 2017) has gone back to being 57% in the capital.

I support the Indie Club and other interested groups who are keen to ensure the regulation for Made Outside London programmes levels the playing field, and results in more job opportunities in places like Birmingham and across the Midlands. I applaud OFCOM's move to tighten their regulation and hope this is the beginning of a new and exciting era of television production outside the capital.

There are opportunities in the Midlands, such as competitive facilities, unique resources and new emerging young creative talent. For this to flourish it is key to have the support of OFCOM that can encourage and express the value of a regional diverse industry. Both in terms of reflecting our culture and the business growth it will create.