

Ofcom Review of proposed BBC Scotland Television Channel:

Ofcom's Provisional Determination

Response by Professor Robert Beveridge FRSA

1

I concur with Ofcom's assessment that 'taking all factors into account, we think the public value offered by the proposal as submitted by the BBC to Ofcom would justify any adverse effects on fair and effective competition it may cause.'

2

The question as to '*how it will seek to distinguish its service from other available services, such as STV2's own weekday news bulletin*' is now rendered irrelevant by the news that STV is closing STV2.

In my judgement, the claim by the STV CEO Mr Pitts that 'the decision to axe STV2 was in part driven by anticipated competition from BBC Scotland's new channel' is no more than cover for a commercial decision which was made on its own merits.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-44136400>

3

The decision to launch the new BBC Scotland Channel in February of 2019 is no more than good sense. Indeed, I recommended this in a previous submission

4

... we will expect the BBC to examine potentially negative effects on public value, such as its decision to end Scotland-only programming on BBC Two, much more explicitly.

This is also good sense. Ofcom also needs to monitor the extent to which programming made in and for Scotland and by or commissioned by BBC Scotland is shown on the BBC UK networks. This is a point which bears repeating as it would be a performance indicator of quality, good investment and of the extent to which the BBC fully meets its public purposes

Robert Beveridge
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