

I felt compelled as a parent to protest against the proposal to reduce the hours of News on CBBC.

As a public service broadcaster CBBC has an obligation to give Newsround as much prominence on CBBC as News gets on BBC1 with regular news bulletins in the morning and after school. With so much “fake news” online and on social media Newsround is a safe haven for children and parents to keep informed and discuss difficult news and current affairs. News for children and parents is a right and not a privilege for those who have the online know how and have unlimited online access.

CBBC’s target audience is 7-13year olds. As many parents in our community, I do not allow our children to go online unsupervised, neither do we spend the time looking online at the news website. The children often watch Newsround at school and we encourage our children to watch the afternoon bulletin on CBBC. The poor scheduling and lack of new content of the afternoon bulletin can contribute to the poor viewing figures as many children are not home at 1630 and are in after school clubs and there is no promotion to new content in the afternoon.

I would rather see a greater investment in News on CBBC to make it more current with better content for our children.

Question 1: Do you agree with Ofcom’s provisional assessment and its proposed changes to the Operating Licence for Children’s news on CBBC? If not, please explain why, providing appropriate supporting evidence where possible.

I strongly disagree with the provisional report. News on CBBC is a right and not a privilege for those children who know how to access it online or have unlimited access to the internet. The CBBC audience of 7-13 year olds encompasses a very young and impressionable audience. With so much fake news online and on social media it is more important more than ever that Newsround on CBBC has as much prominence as BBC News on BBC1. As a parent of two children who watch Newsround at school we watch the afternoon news bulletin to discuss any difficult news stories they come across. I have noticed over the years the reduction of bulletins in the afternoon, the poor scheduling of Newsround and lack of new content has led to a rather weaker afternoon news bulletin.