

Clare Adamson
Convener, Constitution, Europe, External
Affairs and Culture Committee
The Scottish Parliament
BY EMAIL

Glenn Preston
Director, Scotland

16 December 2025

Dear Clare,

STV News consultation

Further to my letter of 27 October, I am writing to share that Ofcom has today published its consultation on STV's proposed changes to its regional programming commitments.

STV has requested to make the following changes to both its STV Central and STV North licences:

- To share up to 70% of material in its 6pm weekday programmes, STV News at Six, where it is of particular relevance to audiences in both licence areas, with the rest of the material to remain bespoke for each region;
- To extend the current permission to share news programming at the weekend to all news programming outside of peak viewing times, where it is of particular interest to audiences in both regions; and
- To remove the requirement to provide five minutes of sub-regional opts ("the opts") in the 6pm news programmes in each licence

This is a revised request that followed a period of engagement between Ofcom and STV, as well as STV's own internal consultation process. Its original request would have enabled the full sharing of STV's regional news between the North of Scotland and Central Scotland at any time (both peak and off peak).

We are proposing to approve STV's request. In our view, STV's proposals will ensure that audiences continue to be served with high-quality, regional news provision on a sustainable basis for STV. We are also mindful of the need for STV to rebalance its newsroom to ensure it is connecting with audiences on digital platforms as well as through traditional linear news bulletins.

Full details can be found on [Ofcom's website](#), alongside the two submissions we received from STV during this process. Our consultation is open until **9 February 2026** and I look forward to appearing in front of your Committee on 15 January 2026 to discuss the proposals further.

Yours sincerely,



Glenn Preston