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Lord Storey CBE  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

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Dear Michael,

Thank you for your contribution to the debate on the draft Local Digital Television Programme Services (Amendment) Order 2024 which was held on Tuesday 10 December. During the debate I committed to write to you to provide further information on a number of points that you raised.

You asked whether, as part of the process for renewing the local TV licences, the Government would give Ofcom guidance on how local news should be provided, including the days on which it is shown, and if local television services would be required to have a physical presence in the areas they serve.

It will be for Ofcom, as the independent regulator for local TV and the body administering the renewal process, to consider whether local TV services are providing news and current affairs content in a manner which meets the requirements of their licence. Notably last year, Ofcom conducted a monitoring exercise to understand how licensees were meeting their licence obligations. Following this exercise, they issued a statement in March this year reminding licensees about Ofcom's expectations for local TV services. This included specific guidance about the delivery of local news, which should be at the centre of local services and broadcast at peak hours, where this is specified in a service's licence. Ofcom has said that applicants should consider this statement as part of their renewal applications.

Regarding local TV services being required to have a physical presence in the local area, this is not a specific requirement of the regulatory regime. However, the statutory local TV objectives require services to meet the needs of the areas they are received, either by bringing social and economic benefits to people living or working in the local area, or catering to their tastes and interests. Ofcom will continue to monitor the fulfillment of the statutory local TV objectives throughout the next licence period.



I hope you found this information helpful, and thank you again for your contribution on this important issue. I am copying this letter to all of those who spoke during the debate, and will place a copy in the library of both Houses.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Twycross', written in a cursive style.

Baroness Twycross  
**Minister for Gambling**