



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**

Glenn Preston
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10 October 2025

Dear Glenn,

I am writing on behalf of Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, with the full support of the leaders of Scotland's five main political parties, to express our united opposition to STV's proposal to end the broadcast of a distinct news programme for the north of Scotland.

This planned change - replacing dedicated northern coverage with a single pan-Scotland bulletin - is of grave concern to businesses, communities and elected representatives across the region. It risks depriving a major economic and cultural area of Scotland of the representation it requires and deserves.

The north of Scotland plays a pivotal role in the nation's success. It is home to world-leading industries in energy, food and drink, tourism and technology, and its communities contribute enormously to Scotland's economy and society. It is therefore essential that the issues, achievements and challenges of this region continue to receive proportionate airtime and coverage.

We believe STV's proposed reduction in regional output is inconsistent with the principles of public service broadcasting and risks materially disadvantaging audiences across the country, most acutely in the north. It would also weaken the diversity and plurality of Scotland's media landscape at a time when trusted local journalism has never been more important.

We therefore urge Ofcom to use its regulatory powers to review, and ultimately block, this proposed change.

STV must be held to its obligations to provide balanced, regional representation in its news output. It is also of great concern to us that the consultation process for this decision is so short.



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This issue transcends party politics. It goes to the heart of fair representation for communities across Scotland.

We look forward to your urgent response.

Yours sincerely

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive

John Swinney MSP
First Minister & Leader of the Scottish
National Party

Anas Sarwar MSP
Leader of the Scottish Labour Party

Russell Findlay MSP
Leader of the Scottish Conservative
Party

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP
Leader of the Scottish Liberal
Democrats

Ross Greer MSP
Co-Leader of the Scottish Green Party