[GB] Television regulator publishes highly favourable performance review of independent television news

IRIS 1996-2:1/21

Tony Prosser
University of Bristol Law School

The Independent Television Commission, which regulates UK private commercial television, has issued a performance review of Independent Television News (ITN), the provider of news for the Channel 3 network. The review concludes that ITN has provided a well-resourced, authorative and attractive news service, meeting the requirements of the Broadcasting Act 1990, that news programmes should be of high quality. It rejected complaints from some Channel 3 companies that too high a proportion of output was foreign news, that there was bias towards news from London and the South-East of the UK, or that output had drifted down-market. The review confirms the position of ITN as the nominated news provider for Channel 3. A further review will be undertaken in 1998.

ITN is currently owned by Carlton Communications and the Granada Group with a 36% holding each; Reuters owns 18% and Scottish Television and Anglia 5% each. The Broadcasting Act prohibits holdings of more than 20%. Those who owned more, were required to reduce their holdings before the end of 1995 (Prof. Tony Prosser, University of Glasgow School of Law)

ITC Review of ITN's performance as Nominated News Provider for Channel 3.

© European Audiovisual Observatory (Council of Europe) 2026

© European Audiovisual Observatory (Council of Europe) 2026