

Response to Ofcom consultation: Digital Dividend Review

I am concerned at the Ofcom attitude towards HD availability for the general public, without subscription. I have bought an HD ready TV and at that time of purchase saw no indication that subscription would be necessary to gain full benefit from it.

As a Licence payer of many years I have already contributed to the development of this technology and am most displeased that the Regulator should determine that I should have to pay again to see the basic Public Service channels in High Definition.

Most new sets on sale today are advertised as HD ready and with the digital changeover approaching, more and more people will be buying such sets and paying for the technology that is built in to them. Indeed one suspects that it will become more and more difficult to buy sets without HD readiness as time goes by (as is usually the way with technological advances).

Some Public Asset Sales / Privatisations might be of benefit to / have benefited relatively few, so Government could reasonably argue a case for intervention so as to ensure the widest public benefit would accrue in those instances.

Television however is such a universally used medium that the greatest benefit to the public will almost certainly attach to this technology being made available to all irrespective of income. Certainly that argument seems substantially more compelling than allowing the Government (of whatever political flavour) of the time to "distribute" such windfall benefits to suit its own particular preferences. I also see it as being no part of the Regulator's remit to further "feather the nests" of those who will charge to provide such services.