



Response to Ofcom Digital Dividend Review

March 2007

NUS Scotland represents the collective view of students' associations across Scotland, representing more than 500,000 students across further and higher education in Scotland.

The majority of the students' associations in membership of NUS Scotland have their own clubs and societies. These societies range from sports clubs, to course-related societies and also include a large number of amateur theatrical, acting, singing and performing societies. All receive very limited funding from their parent students' association, normally much less than £1,000 per annum.

Societies contribute a great deal to the experience of students within further and higher education. Students make new friends, learn new skills and have the opportunity to develop personally and enhance their employability.

In addition, many students' associations operate bars, clubs and other venues, often playing live music and allowing student bands to perform to a live audience.

All profits made from this commercial activity are used to fund the other services of the students' association. These include student welfare and counselling support, provision of sexual health products and advice, student representation to their institution and policy-makers and their democratic decision-making structures, as well as funding the clubs and societies mentioned previously.



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Because of the extensive usage of radio microphones, in-ear monitors, talkback and wireless instrument links within students' association societies and for students' association entertainments, students in Scotland have a clear interest in this review.

Because of the limits of the number of radio-reliant devices that would be usable in a confined space or venue using channel 69, and the purchase cost and time-delays occurring from the use of digital alternatives, NUS Scotland opposes plans to sell-off the Analogue UHF TV band, currently used for this purpose.

Students' associations perform a valuable role in society, and clubs, societies and entertainments are a key feature of the personal development of the next generation of our society. Auctioning the Analogue UHF TV band, thereby making it unusable for radio microphones and other radio devices used for live performances will cause huge difficulties, particularly financially, for students' associations and the students that they represent, potentially ending the long tradition of student theatre and performance.

Submitted on behalf of the Scottish Executive Committee

NUS Scotland



About NUS Scotland

NUS Scotland is a federation of local student organisations in Scotland, comprising over 60 local campus student organisations that are affiliated to the National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUS). NUS Scotland is an autonomous, but integral, part of the National Union of Students. The students' associations in membership of NUS Scotland account for 85% of students in higher education in Scotland and over 90% of students in further education in Scotland.

Students' associations affiliated to NUS retain autonomy over all policy areas, and may choose to make individual students' association submissions based on local policy. NUS Scotland operates a democratic forum for policy and debate on national issues affecting students and NUS Scotland's role is to reflect the collective position.