

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Tom

Surname:

Selby

Name and title under which you would like this response to appear:

Tom Selby

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

N/A

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep nothing confidential

If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:

Ofcom may publish a response summary:

Yes

I confirm that I have read the declaration:

Yes

Ofcom should only publish this response after the consultation has ended:

You may publish my response on receipt

Question 1: This executive summary sets out Ofcom's proposals for the release of the digital dividend. Do you agree with these proposals?:

Question 2:Do you have any comments on our analysis of the essential constraints that will apply to the available UHF spectrum?..:

Question 3:Do you agree with the more detailed analysis and proposals regarding these technical constraints as set out in Annex 10?..:

Question 4:Do you have any comments on Ofcom?s assessment of the potential uses of this spectrum? Are there any potential uses which should be considered that are not mentioned in this document?..:

Please see my comments at the end of this document

Question 5:Do you have any comments on our analysis of the choice between a market-led and an interventionist approach to the release of this spectrum? Do you agree with the analysis of different mechanisms for intervening to remedy potential market failures?..:

Please see my comments at the end of this document

Question 6:Do you agree with our proposals to continue making available channel 69 for use by low power PMSE devices? Do you agree with our proposal to make some or all of the spectrum available for use on a licence-exempt basis?..:

Question 7:Do you agree that there should be transitional protection for professional PMSE users to ensure that they can continue to access interleaved capacity until at least the end of 2012? Do you have any views on the mechanism for providing future access to this spectrum?..:

Question 8:Do you consider that additional spectrum from the digital dividend should be reserved for low power applications? If so, please provide as much evidence as possible about the nature of the application and its potential value to society..:

Question 9:Do you consider that it would be desirable to hold back some spectrum from award with a view to its potential use for future innovation? If so, please provide comments on how much spectrum should be held back, and for how long..:

Question 10:Do you agree with our proposal that we should package the interleaved spectrum in a way that would be suitable for use by local television services, but not reserve spectrum solely for this use?..:

Question 11:Do you agree with our proposal to package the spectrum in a way which does not preclude mobile broadband use, but to take no further action in relation to this use?..:

Question 12:Do you agree with our proposal that we should not intervene in the award of this spectrum to reserve spectrum for DTT? Do you agree that we should package the spectrum in a way which is suitable for DTT use?..:

Please see my comments at the end of this document

Question 13:Do you consider that we have included in our analysis the most material risks in relation to market failure?..:

Question 14:Do you agree with our proposal to auction licences for the use of the available UHF spectrum?..:

Question 15:Do you agree with Ofcom?s proposals as to the timing of any auction? If not, what alternative proposal would you make and why, and what evidence and analysis can you provide in support of your alternative proposal?..:

Question 16:Do you have any views on which of the packaging options identified for the cleared spectrum would be most suitable?..:

Please see my comments at the end of this document

Question 17:Do you have any views on which of the packaging options identified for the interleaved spectrum would be most suitable?..:

Question 18:Do you have any views on which of the auction design options would be most suitable?..:

Question 19:Do you agree with Ofcom?s proposals for the non-technical terms of the licences to be awarded for use of the UHF spectrum?..:

Question 20:Do you agree with the analysis of the options as set out in this Impact Assessment?..:

Additional comments:

This afternoon, I walked around the TV section of my local department store (Beales in Bournemouth) and every TV set with screen size 23 inches or larger was labelled 'HD Ready'. So much for 'premium consumer product'

Not that long ago, wide screen TVs were few and far between. Now it can be quite difficult to find a new TV in the old format. Similarly, I believe that it is likely that HD will become more of a normal standard

I have been enormously impressed with the BBC's HD trial on my non-subscription HD satellite receiver. The problem now is that HDTV

programmes look so inferior by comparison. I suspect that once more people have been able to sample HD TV, the clamour for more will grow

In my opinion spectrum for HD should be made available for free-to-air broadcasts. The move to HD is likely to be world-wide and I suspect that the British TV industry (programme makers etc.) would benefit from a strong UK base to support their export market

I also believe that there would be benefits in Ofcom taking this decision as early as possible. Once the industry, and most importantly the public, know that there will be HD on Freeview, then this will help the switch to the more efficient MPEG4 standard. This will encourage people to look for and buy MPEG4 HDTV capable set-top boxes and TVs.

After cut-over, when the population has purchased Freeview set-top boxes, if Ofcom were to announce that there is to be a shift to MPEG4, it would be difficult to imagine the regulator surviving the inevitable outcry

In my opinion, the regulator should announce before the end of this year that spectrum will be allocated eventually for HD broadcasts and it will be in the MPEG4 standard. This will give at least some notice to consumers that they need to look for 'HD Ready' on set-top boxes and there will also be a need for a Freeview 'HD ready' sign on TVs