

Title:

Mr

Forename:

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Surname:

Welshman

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep part of the response confidential

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

my email address

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

Additional comments:

As a consumer of BBC content I am happy with the current service albeit improvements in delivery could be made (e.g. Desert Island Discs availability restrictions on the iPlayer). Anything that restricts access to broadcast programmes in any way is a step backwards. Adding DRM to satisfy content producers works against the BBC's audience interests. If some producers choose not to supply the BBC in HD because of the lack of DRM then so be it - perhaps broadcast their content in SD or not at all. DRM has proven to be unworkable,

making life more difficult for those who are the most law abiding while being ignored by those who are determined to find a way to watch content regardless of the legality of their actions.

Question 1: Do you agree that copy management would broaden the range of HD content available on DTT and help secure its long term viability as a platform? :

No. I feel this is irrelevant anyway. The BBC provide a fabulous service right now and this is what I want to see from their HD offering. If the choice is continued level of service with DRM or reduced service without, then reduced it should be. DRM works against the BBC's audience and will force people to find alternate sources of content.

Question 2: Do you agree that the BBC's proposed multiplex licence amendment represents the most appropriate means for securing an effective content management system on HD DTT? :

No. The provider's argument that their DVD sales are at risk from HD quality broadcast without DRM is disingenuous at best and downright deceitful in reality. Similar stories were pedalled at the introduction of cassette tapes, VHS recorders et cetera and were proven to be wrong. DRM does nothing but make life difficult for honest users, making them more likely to find content easily playable elsewhere.

Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed change to Condition 6 in the Multiplex B Licence? :

No. The BBC should ask themselves one question - "what is best for their viewers?". We do not want to give up functionality currently available in exchange for a little extra resolution. The 'rights holders' are entitled to do what they want with their product but the BBC should prioritise their user's rights before those of the providers.

Question 4: Do you agree that Multiplexes C and D should be granted a similar amendment to their Licences as Multiplex B? . :

Look, I'm a simple user, all I want is programme information freely available, for use by anyone. Restrictions are likely to impact Free and Open Source Software applications to the benefit of proprietary competition. Data locked in proprietary formats inevitably leads to problems for users.

Question 5: Do you agree that the BBC's proposed approach for implementing content management would safeguard citizens and consumers legitimate use of HD content, and if not, what additional guarantees would be appropriate? :

No. DRM in any form impacts users negatively. It is not acceptable and should not be implemented. There is ample evidence that DRM benefits only the providers at the expense or inconvenience of consumers. Indeed, consumers are more likely to find alternative sources of content that are not encumbered by DRM and this may have a negative impact on

the providers long-term. Eventually, DRM will be removed (see iTunes music store history) so don't implement it in the first instance.

Question 6: Do you agree that the BBC's proposed choice of content management technologies will have only a negligible impact on the cost of HD DTT receivers and their interoperability with other HD consumer equipment? . :

No. It will force people to find alternative sources for content which may cost more long-term.

Question 7: Do stakeholders agree that the BBC's proposed Huffman Code licensing arrangements would have a negligible effect on the market for HD DTT receivers? :

Again, simple is best. Will the information be made freely available (in an open format) and accessible by anyone for zero cost? If not, there's a problem.

Question 8: Do the BBC's proposed content management states and their permitted use for different categories of HD content meet the requirements of other HD broadcasters on DTT? . :

Not too worried about this - as a consumer I simply want to access content on any device I choose without having to worry about proprietary restrictions on data formats or licencing restrictions that mean I can't watch content as I would choose to watch it.

Question 9: Are there any issues that you consider Ofcom should take into account in assessing the BBC's proposal, that have not been addressed by this consultation?:

Simply what's best for the consumer long-term. DRM restrictions benefit the producer at the expense of the consumer and should not be implemented. If this means that some producers choose not to air on the BBC then so be it.