

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Will

Surname:

Norman

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

will@cewilliams.plus.com

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

Additional comments:

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. Unless I am mistaken, the suggestion is that HD Freeview will be able to broadcast premium content - such as the latest HD films - in competition to other platforms such as

Sky, rather than lagging a long way behind, because premium content providers will be happy to see their media on HD Freeview, knowing it is well protected from internet-based illegal file sharing, and that furthermore, this will enrich all our lives because we will finally have access to premium Sky-like content on a free to air service.

I would have thought commercial factors relating to how much more Sky are able to pay for any given content is more likely to determine who gets the premium content for their platform.

Furthermore, in the analogue era where DRM was not so much of an option, the satellite platforms still easily outgunned terrestrial for the right to broadcast the big shows, despite everyone being easily able to distribute whatever they chose on VHS.

It feels a little bit like the introduction of a media police state via the back door. personally, I'm not 100% opposed to the proposal, but I don't want to be patronised by this 'it's for your own good' line. The proposal is surely about protecting the commercial profitability of media producers, which is fine, but let's not pretend this is to do with providing me with a better and richer televisual experience which will make the world a better place.

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? :

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

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

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? :

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? . :

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? :

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? . :

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?:

This is my main reason for responding to this consultation.

I am a registered blind media consumer. My choices for how I experience my media are already extremely limited. Until the day that talking HDD recorders, TVs, and audio description across the board become a reality, I will always have to accept that my choices for watching television in the visual age are extremely limited.

The shift across to internet-based media consumption might be something of a blessing for me, as through the speech software installed on my computer, I stand some chance of having easier access to content - although with even the Iplayer something of an accessibility minefield, even this seems currently unlikely.

My specific concern regarding this DRM proposal, is that I may find it even more difficult to access content.

One methodology I currently use is to record content straight to a DVD on my DVD recorder, and then archive this DVD on my computer. I can then use my computer's screen reader software to find the film easily when I want to watch it. This is much faster than trying to find a programme stored on my DVD recorder's HDD, where there is no speech, and I laboriously have to cycle through every show on the drive, looking for the one I want.

If the DRM proposals limit the hardware people can use to access their content in too aggressive a fashion, I - as a visually impaired consumer - might find that work-arounds such as this I currently use to try and make my life easier, are removed from the equation. If the DRM content only works on certain units, and those devices are not in themselves accessible, how in the long term am I to access the media content?