

Question 1: which services are most likely to drive take up of DTT consumer reception equipment using new technologies? In particular, are HD services the most likely to do so?:

Good quality free-to-air TV channels. The quality of the streams on Mux A are completely unacceptable.

Question 2: do you agree with Ofcom's assessment that it would be beneficial for the DTT platform to begin to upgrade to new technologies ? DVB-T2 and MPEG-4 - to make more efficient use of spectrum and to allow for the introduction of new services?:

It would, however for a couple of additional channels showing only HD-versions of what is already available, it's too much effort. Concentrate on ensuring we can watch mpeg2 streams with football games which don't pixellate and streams with unacceptable GOP times.

Question 3: Ofcom is particularly interested in hearing from multiplex operators and programme providers as to whether they are interested in using DVB-T2 and / or MPEG-4, and whether Ofcom should consider permitting their use on DTT?:

I'd be interested in hearing the views of the non-ITV plc. Channel 3 franchise holders and how they feel they will be affected,

Question 4: do you agree that the earliest possible availability and adoption of the technologies is in the interests of consumers and citizens?:

MPEG4 should have been adopted in 2003 so I don't understand why the fuss now? We already have a market full of equipment which doesn't meet the standards set by the DTG and the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform. It will happen again with much more expense to the consumer.

Question 5: do you agree with Ofcom's view that DVB-T2 MPEG-4 reception equipment could be commercially available in time for DSO in Granada region in late 2009?:

No, how can you spread the channels about when the multiplexes won't become 64QAM until DSO is complete in 2012?

Question 6: do you agree that some form of intervention is required in order for the DTT platform to commence an upgrade to new technologies without delay?:

Yes, the sale of non-conformant boxes has been nothing short of a scandal. This could be a new start, however people are already spending hundreds of pounds on equipment which in 2009 is not going to do a proper job.

Question 7: Do you have any proposals for launching MPEG-4 services on a DTT multiplex using DVB-T in advance of the proposed 2009 timetable and if so can you provide details of how such a service would not undermine the proposed MPEG-4/DVB-T2 launch in 2009?:

No

Question 8: do you agree with Ofcom's proposed approach for adding SD and HD versions of MPEG-4 and DVB-T2 profiles to the list of permitted standards for DTT in the spring, and that Ofcom's consent must be sought prior to adoption of these standards?:

No opinion

Question 9: do you agree with Ofcom's proposal that Multiplex B should be cleared and upgraded to new technologies?:

Very sceptical that it could work, I don't think these plans have been thought through. Personally, I would add an extra frequency to each of the main powerful regional transmitters and leave the DTT HD to only those in these areas.

Question 10: do you agree with Ofcom's proposal that all multiplexes should be required to upgrade to 64QAM at DSO in order to make the most efficient use of spectrum (ie that the mode change should not merely be optional)?:

Only if quality is kept, the quality of Mux A and to some extent Mux 2 is unacceptable.

Question 11: do you agree with our proposals for accommodating Five, S4C, TG4 and GDS on Multiplex 2?:

It's making things complicated, S4C in place of Channel 4 in Wales would make things easier.

Question 12: do you agree with our assessment that nine SD services can operate on Multiplex 2? If not, do you have an alternative proposal?:

I don't understand the technology used. As long as quality goes no lower and not as low as Mux A then maybe it is possible.

Question 13: do you agree with our proposals for the reorganisation process for the existing multiplex services set out in the central case scenario?:

More clarification is needed, I've mentioned some tweaks in a below answer.

Question 14: do you agree with the principles / conditions that Ofcom proposes to use to evaluate counterproposals for the reorganisation process?:

No, I think the non ITV Plc. franchises will have something to say and Channel 4 should lose 1 stream in place of S4C. Those who live inbetween regions will only get just the one variant, why should one region get two versions of the same channel. There isn't the capacity for it.

Question 15: Do you have an alternative proposal for the reorganisation process? If yes, please provide details.:

If it is to be done, Channel4+1 should be replaced by the regional non-england stream, leaving Channel4+1 available in only England. The BBC should then consider scrapping one of their interactive 301/302 streams or reduce the bitrate of these further and not broadcast at all on MUX 2. Their interactive stream would require a copy of the data stream which is duplicated at the moment on both of their multiplexes, it would get too complicated. Those streams are at times meant to be linked seamlessly for some interactive applications and the current mheg technology due to the disgraceful non-upgrade of boxes to MHEG 5 v1.06 means that they can't be separated.

When the compression techniques allow, Channel 5 can then be carried on Mux 2.

Channel 4 should be content that their main channel will be broadcast in Wales alongside S4C if losing 1 channel is an issue. Maybe some deal with ITV over the now empty SDN slot could be a compromise?

Question 16: do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the options for allocating the upgraded capacity?:

I'm sceptical of the quality the channels will be reduced to based on the deterioration of Mux A.

Question 18: do you agree with the proposal that Ofcom should not mandate the use of the capacity for any particular service type (SD or HD) but allow the broadcasters to make proposals?:

I do agree, this is the only way the capacity would expand, too few HD channels leave little choice or incentive.

Question 19: do you agree with the proposal that the capacity should be allocated in three UK-wide blocks initially, rising to four blocks at DSO?:

Yes

Question 20: do you agree with the proposed criteria for the comparative selection process?:

Yes, as long as FTA channels are the main criteria.

Question 21: do you have any comments on Ofcom's proposals for the upgraded multiplex?:

Free-To-Air channels only please

Question 22: Do you agree with Ofcom's impact assessment?:

No, some existing services will need to be sacrificed.

Question 23: Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the potential benefits, risks and mitigations strategies relating to the impact of these proposals on the DSO programme?:

I don't think you would get away with saying no services would be lost.

Additional comments: