

Title:

Dr

Forename:

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Representing:

Self

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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. I do not agree. I believe that in line with other digital media, content management is a fundamentally flawed approach. The digital music industry is a case in point, as it can be observed that progressively copy management systems are being phased out.

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. I do not agree. I believe that burdening the end user (consumer) with an ever more complex range of issues is unfair. I believe that the onus is on the BBC to ensure that fair use is permitted, and on the law to prevent illegal distribution (sufficient protection is already in law). I do not believe that enforcing this via DRM is the correct way forward. It will not stop those that wish to distribute content, and it will massively inconvenience those that have no intention of abusing the systems.

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

No. I do not agree. I believe I have outlined sufficient reasons in my responses to question 1 and 2.

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

No. I do not agree. I believe I have outlined sufficient reasons in my responses to question 1 and 2.

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. I do not agree. I believe that this will inhibit legal personal use of BBC content, which is funded by the license payer. I believe the proposed approach serves only to protect the content providers, and is very much against the best interests of citizens and consumers.

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. I don not agree. It is inevitable that added the technology required to HD DTT receivers will add cost, and I do not believe that this will be negligible. Current SD DTT receivers are bad enough and very variable in terms of quality of hardware, software and reliability. Adding an extra layer of complexity on top of the change to HD will have a significant developmental cost implication, that will inevitably be passed onto the payer. I would ask, will the BBC be willing to subsidise this cost differential if this proposal is approved?

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? :

No.

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? . :

No.

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?:

Cost, complexity and limitations on fair (and legal) use should be in the forefront of Ofcom's mind during the deliberations over this proposal.

I believe that there should be a fair and open "Voice of the Customer" opportunity to the license paying public. I believe that if the argument is sufficiently strong by the BBC, then the public will endorse it. If - as I believe it will be - this self-serving and unfair proposal is rejected by the license paying public as a whole, then this should be rejected.