

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Neil

Surname:

Richardson

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

nt.richardson@virginmedia.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, it will make absolutely no long-term difference to the range of content available.

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? :

The content cannot be "secured". It has the practical effect of restricting legitimate use whilst doing nothing to protect the content against piracy.

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

No

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

No

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. It will force consumers to use "approved" equipment. This will stifle competition amongst manufacturers, locking out cheaper equipment.

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. Restricting choice of manufacturers to an approved list will maintain an artificially high price of HD DTT receivers.

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, it will have a substantial effect, by keeping the price of receivers artificially high and slowing the growth of the market.

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? . :

I don't know and I don't care. The BBC is paid for by my and millions of other license payers. It should not be trying to pander to content providers or other distributors.

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?:

There are always unforeseen consequences when copy management is attempted to restrict what users of the content can legitimately do. I have way to much content now on obsolete formats that I can do little with apart from look at it sitting on a shelf. VHS tapes with copy protection, SACD discs that cannot be played from a media centre, HD-DVD's, DRM infected mp3's that will be unplayable soon and numerous other examples.

For generations the BBC led the way in terms of technological development, now it appears to have developed a suicidal strategy of competing with the likes of Sky.

The appalling way that HD content is being delivered by the BBC will not be helped by worrying what US tv producers want. If they are unwilling to sell to the BBC, tough. Let them go to Sky or Channel 5 and see the true value of their content.