

# Freesat accessibility report for Ofcom

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2019

Freesat  
22-23 NEWMAN STREET, WESTMINSTER W1T 1PJ

## **Introduction**

Since last year's statement, we have been developing our next generation set-top boxes, which are due to launch in January 2020. As with our existing Freesat branded televisions and set-top boxes, the next generation set-top boxes have a range of accessibility functions to ensure that customers can enjoy television.

Please note that we are providing a response in relation to the licences TLCS001298BA and TLCS100216BA. Freesat is not the licence holder of licence TLCS001709BA, to which Ofcom's letter referred. Please note that sections of this response (in italic typeface) are confidential and no element of those sections can be disclosed to a third party without the prior written approval of Freesat.

## **Core functionality for accessibility**

Ofcom has stated that there are four areas that EPG providers should use reasonable endeavours to offer to their customers, these include:

1. Render text needed for EPG navigation and the provision of information on channels and programmes included in the EPG as speech
2. Highlight or list separately programmes with audio description, and with signing
3. Adjust the display of EPG information so that it can magnified, or the text enlarged
4. Select a 'high contrast' display

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Freesat's ongoing work to improve EPG accessibility in the wider context includes:

- Plans to collaborate with Digital UK in a joint effort to attempt to persuade TV manufacturers to adopt further accessibility features within future models of their TV receivers. We are encouraging this through the proposed use of TV specifications which are aligned as far as possible in terms of recommended accessibility features; and
- [redacted]

With regard to the implementation of other EPG accessibility features as set out in Ofcom's letter, Freesat will continue to use reasonable endeavours to evolve the accessibility features in its products going forward, as far as reasonably practicable.

### **Additional accessibility features**

[redacted]

Freesat will also continue to explore the use of secondary devices as a viable and cost-effective way of providing certain accessibility functionality to its customers, [redacted]