

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Osric

Surname:

Wilkinson

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep part of the response confidential

If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:

Just my email address, thanks.

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. Copy management is being pushed by a small group of companies that already have disproportional control of the media market. There are plenty of other content producers

(including the BBC itself) that are producing high quality HD content, without the requirement to lock content only to approved devices.

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. Since American HD broadcasts do not have copy protection, there is no effective way of stopping copies being made - once content is broadcast in America, it will become available for (unauthorised) download, thus circumventing any copy protection scheme in place in the UK. Therefore, the BBC can't propose an effective copy management system, and any attempt to try will only have a negative impact on people who follow the rules.

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

No. I don't see how restricting access to EPG data helps anyone.

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

No. See question 3.

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. Watching HD content *is* a legitimate use, and the BBC proposes to restrict citizens ability to do this by requiring the use of devices that have been licenced. The BBC's content has already been paid for by the licence fee, so there is no justification in restricting its use further.

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. There are currently several free or open source software packages that can be used with commercial hardware to watch and record HD broadcasts. If the BBC locked out this kind of software (which it must do to provide "effective" copy protection), the costs of making a new device to receive HD would increase beyond the cost of licencing the copy protection technology, as the existing free/open source software would need to be re-implemented.

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? :

Without being able to see the proposed licence, this is a hard one to answer, but I'd be surprised if the BBC's licence is compatible with the requirement of free/open source licences to be able to amend software as desired.

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? . :

Pass. I'm not a HD broadcaster.

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 is a large historical precedent for incumbent industries to be frightened by, and try to put restrictions on, new technology that effects their business model. The new technology does sometimes damage the profits of existing companies, but almost always strongly benefits the individual citizen. It is not the BBC's (or Ofcom's) role to help preserve these existing companies, rather they exist to provide the best service possible to the public. Please don't be taken in by the empty threats made by content producers. They made the same threats to withhold content when the FCC (broadly, the American equivalent to Ofcom) was thinking about introducing similar restrictions for American HD broadcasts. The FCC ignored the threats, and no content was withheld.