



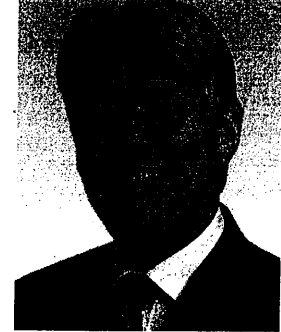
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MC/jw/Ofcom

3 November 2009

Ed Richards  
Chief Executive  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2A Southwark Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 9HA

Ofcom  
- 5 NOV 2009  
Chief Executive's Office

Dear Mr Richards

**OFCOM Access Services Review**

The Communications Act (2003) requires that broadcasters audio describe 10 per cent of their programming on digital TV. I note that Ofcom has issued a review of TV access services. I note this has three proposals for the future of audio description:

1. No change - audio description remains at 10 per cent.
2. Increase audio description targets to 20 per cent on all digital TV channels.
3. Increase audio description targets to 20 per cent on 10 PSB channels (BBC 1,2,3,4, CBBC, Cbeebies, ITV1, C4, Five and S4C).

I support option 2 and urge OFCOM to set this as the acceptable level of audio description. Blind and partially sighted people, just like sighted people, have a wide range of interests and would like to choose from a wider range of programmes on all channels. Blind and partially sighted people often contact me to let me know that audio description has revolutionised TV for them and that they are now able to fully understand and follow programmes which they could not without audio description.

I suggest that broadcasters should be required to phase in this increase over five years so OFCOM would not be asking broadcasters to double their increase at this time of lower revenue. I understand that broadcasters with a very small audience share and turnover do not have to meet these targets.

Yours sincerely

**Michael Connarty MP**  
**Linlithgow and East Falkirk Constituency**

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