

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

Nick

**Surname:**

Jeffery

**Representing:**

Organisation

**Organisation (if applicable):**

BBC

**What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:**

No

**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

**Additional comments:**

**Question 1: Do you agree that Ofcom should not seek a supplementary technical plan in respect of Multiplex B prior to considering whether or not to renew the Mux B Licence? :**

The BBC does not feel a further technical plan is necessary. The BBC has made a significant, long-term, investment in the Multiplex B transmission network that demonstrates commitment to the terrestrial platform. At the end of switchover, Multiplex B will offer analogue-equivalent coverage from around 1100 transmitter sites. Other than a desire to extend coverage beyond analogue equivalence, it is difficult to see what further coverage requirements could be placed upon the licence.

**Question 2: Do you agree that in renewing the Mux B Licence, it is appropriate not to require supplementary proposals in relation to the promotion of, or assistance with, the acquisition of DTT receiver equipment? :**

The creation of Freeview, and the original marketing plan set out by the Freeview shareholders in 2002, was vital to the stability of the digital terrestrial platform. Over the past decade, Freeview has been successful in educating consumers about digital terrestrial television and has helped establish it as the leading television platform in the UK.

With the exception of equipment intended for satellite or cable reception, almost all mainstream consumer television sets, converter boxes and standalone recorders support the reception of Freeview services. Such devices are widely installed and are ubiquitous in both specialist electronic and general retailers. The BBC therefore feels the objectives underpinning the original Freeview marketing plan have been fulfilled.

Accordingly, and in line with the renewal terms offered to the licensee of Multiplexes C and D, the BBC believes that maintaining obligations relating to the promotion of, and offering assistance in obtaining, digital receivers would be an unnecessary and unfair burden upon the Multiplex B licensee.

**Question 3: Do you agree with our preference not to apply a charge for PMR in a renewed Mux B Licence, in light of our stated intention to charge AIP for spectrum used for broadcasting?:**

The BBC has contributed extensively to the debate concerning AIP and notes that Ofcom continues to expect to introduce AIP in 2014 but subject to an assessment of its impact on broadcasting. The BBC has serious concerns about AIP and, in particular, its potential to unfairly penalise public service broadcasters who, as a condition of their licence, must maintain near-universal coverage. The BBC is not convinced AIP will promote spectrum efficiency by public service broadcasters; instead, it will divert significant funds from investment in UK content and programmes to the detriment of audiences. This notwithstanding, the BBC recognises that this consultation is not about the introduction of AIP per se. We look forward to engaging with Ofcom's review of the application of AIP to broadcasting.

The BBC has very limited opportunity to make any competitive advances on Multiplex B post-switchover as The Television Multiplex Services (Reservation of Digital Capacity) Order 2008 gives Ofcom the power to allocate three slots to other PSBs. Given this, the transmission and coding parameters in use, and the near-universal coverage obligation, post-DSO Multiplex B has little scope to play a major role in the supply of DTT capacity to the market. Considering these points, and in line with the renewal conditions recently offered to other DTT Multiplex licensees, we would not consider it reasonable for Ofcom to set multiplex revenue at anything greater than zero per-cent on this occasion.

**Question 4: Do you agree that Ofcom should vary any renewed Mux B Licence in order to remove the provisions set out in paragraph 3.21?:**

The BBC welcomes Ofcom's suggestion and believes it would be appropriate to vary the Licence in the described manner.

