

This submission is made on behalf of an independent television discussion forum. It aims to provide a community perspective on how broadcast regulation currently affects viewers and platform consistency, particularly in relation to adult chat television services.

At present, adult chat TV services on Freeview are restricted to post-midnight scheduling, whereas comparable services on Sky and other digital platforms are permitted from 9pm, subject to appropriate content controls. This distinction appears to be rooted in historical, technical, and EPG limitations that applied to earlier generations of digital terrestrial television.

In today's media environment, viewers increasingly access content across multiple platforms using modern televisions and set-top boxes that provide robust parental controls, clear content labelling, and PIN protection. These safeguards now exist consistently across Freeview, satellite, and IPTV platforms.

In this context, it is unclear whether the continued disparity in scheduling restrictions remains proportionate or effective. Maintaining stricter rules for one platform risks creating an uneven regulatory landscape that does not reflect current viewing behaviours or technical capabilities.

We encourage Ofcom, as part of this review of broadcast regulation, to consider whether a more level, platform-neutral approach to scheduling and access controls for adult chat TV would better reflect today's media environment, while continuing to ensure appropriate audience protection.