

Representing:

Name withheld 18

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:

Keep organisation confidential

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:

Over two years ago I purchased the TVONICS DTRZ HD500 freeview recorder. This box has built-in text to speech software. It not only reads out the EPG but also all the recording and timing functions as well. Bascially everything this is writtin on the screen it will read.

This is one of the best pieces of talking equipment I have in my home.

The probably is I can only watch freeview programmes.

I would like to have the choice of Sky, BT or Virgin so I can receive a lot more TV channels.

As you know this is not possible at the moment so I feel I am missing out on a lot of TV programmes.

TVONICS were a small company based in Wales. If a small company can do it why can't the big boys?

Why? Because they are selfish and basically can't be bothered with the hassle.

Question 1:Do respondents agree with Ofcom?s initial assessment that apps for mobile devices have the potential to be useful for those people with visual impairments who feel confident using touch-screen technology and can afford a suitable mobile device? If not, why not? :

Yes

Question 2:Do respondents agree with Ofcom?s initial assessment that apps for mobile devices are less likely to meet the needs of the majority of visually-impaired people who are 65 or older, both because they are less likely either to own a suitable mobile phone and because touch-screen apps present a number of actual and perceived barriers to use. If not, why not?:

Yes

Question 3:Do respondents consider that it would be reasonable for visually-impaired viewers to pay more than sighted viewers for the ability to use EPGs or substitutes for the same purposes as sighted viewers? If so why? :

I think it is wrong to ask V.I.P's to pay more for a service sighted people get for free. However, if the cost is low I would still pay for it.

Question 4:Do respondents agree with Ofcom?s initial assessment that the speaking EPGs integrated into TVs and set top boxes may be easier for people with visual impairments to use than touch-screen apps? If not, why not? :

Yes I definitely agree.

Question 5:Do pay TV service providers such as Sky, Virgin, Talk Talk and BT TV see additional obstacles that would prevent them from committing to including text to speech capabilities in the next planned upgrades to the receivers they offer to subscribers? If so, what are these obstacles? Absent regulation, would these obstacles make it impossible on commercial grounds to commit to the necessary investment?:

They probably say it's all to do with cost. However, TVONIX have made a text to speech freeview recorder and Panasonic now have it in most of their TV's. If they can do it why can't the larger companies such as Sky, BT and Virgin.

Question 6:If the cost of providing speech-enabled receivers to all those who subscribe to particular pay TV services would entail a substantial delay to the roll-out of such receivers to all subscribers, would it be feasible, quicker and more cost-effective to offer suitable equipment first to viewers with visual impairments?:

Yes

Question 7:Do respondents consider that it would be reasonable to expect visually-impaired viewers to pay extra for equipment that allows them to use EPGs or substitutes for the same purposes as sighted viewers? If so, why? :

I've answered this above. It is wrong to ask us to pay more but if the price is low then i would.

Question 8:Do licensors such as Freesat and Freeview see obstacles to using their leverage to require manufacturers to incorporate speaking EPGs in future versions of products authorised to use their brands, such as Freetime and Freeview Connect?:

I don't know about this.

Question 9:What are the main types of cost that pay TV service providers would face in incorporating speaking EPG features into the next generation of their set top boxes?:

Question 10:What is the scope for connected platforms to avoid the need for specific TTS provision within consumer equipment by using cloud-based resources (e.g. speech files on a central server delivered to the device as required)?: