Title:

Mr

Forename:

Colin

Surname:

Vincent

Representing:

Self

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:

I would like to be able to access my EPG in an easy fashion. Currently, as a blind user, I have to rely on my memory to know what number each channel is on the EPG; this is particularly difficult with high numbers. Also, even when I go to the right channel, if I end up there during a commercial break, I have no way of knowing if I'm on the right channel, or what is on at that moment.

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?:

I think that this would apply to some people, but others can definitely use touch screen comfortably

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 don't agree with that; Apple, for instance, doesn't charge any extra for its Voice Over functionality. Furthermore, this would possibly be illegal under the Disability Discrimination Act.

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? :

I wouldn't think that there's any difference between using mobile apps and using TTS implemented on TVs and set-top boxes.

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?:

I don't see why they should object or have any problems with the technology.

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?:

I suppose it would.

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? :

If visually-impaired people have to pay the same as anyone else, I don't see any problem.

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 why they'd have to use their leverage, given that the technology is already out there.

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?:

I can't see that it would make any big difference in their costs. Apple and Android have already developed the technology, and pay TV providers would only need to apply it to their platforms.

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)?:

I don't see any difficulty with that; maybe some security issues?