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BY EMAIL

Dear David

Consultation on content management on the Freeview HD platform

As requested I am writing with additional information on the sorts of rights which Channel 4 feels would be denied to the Freeview HD platform in the event that Ofcom did not rule in favour of the BBC's requested changes to their mux licence. I want to impress on you that Channel 4's Acquisition team are in constant contact with distributors and the position on rights is very fluid.

In addition, I would like to stress that the deals we have reached with distributors to broadcast native HD versions of content on Freeview HD assume that the content management arrangements proposed by the BBC exist and persist on the platform. In the event that Ofcom do not agree to the BBC's request we believe that many distributors will want to review their rights position. If this happens we believe there could well be a 'domino effect' resulting in distributors pulling content because they would not want to appear to be 'soft' in this matter. Although our biggest current issues are with acquired content it is also possible that, if there were no content management, PACT members would also wish to review their position and there would be an impact on UK commissioned content too.

The supply of many series and feature films for exhibition on Channel 4 could be at risk without this content protection and this would be a significant problem because we cannot black out titles and can't put together a bespoke feed in the same way as, say, the BBC.

As set out in our response the consultation Channel 4 strongly believes that Ofcom should agree to the BBC's request for the changes to its mux licence as we do not believe we can hold a line with distributors in the event that there is no content management on the Freeview HD platform.





Please let me know if there is any further information that you require.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

David Doms

David Dorans Head of Distribution and Broadcast Technology