What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep name 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

Ofcom should only publish this response after the consultation has ended:

You may publish my response on receipt

Additional comments:

I currently receive TV on a computer running the GPL-licensed system "MythTV", via a DVB tuner. This system allows for recording, time-shifting, etc., and plays back video either to the attached HDTV or to any PC in my house, over the internal network. To the best of my knowledge this is all well within the allowances of copyright law.
By my understanding, under these proposals a tuner capable of HD reception that was licensed to use the BBC tables would not be permitted to output its signal to a PC running open-source software, as control would then be lost of the content. If the PC were running closed-source software whose developers had licensed the relevant tables, a situation which would reduce teh choice of software available, then that software would not be permitted to output a signal to our current HD TV, which is not connected by an encryption-capable mechod, and would not be permitted to send the video files around the internal network in our house.

So far as I am concerned, these propsals would severely limit how I and my household would be able to legitimately enjoy BBC content, while not actually protecting rights-holders from professional pirates.

Question 1: Do you agree that copy management would broaden the range of HD content available on DTT and help secure its long term viability as a platform? :

I believe that the US media industry say that this is the case. However, the BBC (and UK broadcast in general) is a huge market, and it seems unlikely that the publishers would turn down this entire market if copy management were not implemented. I believe that a similar question arose over standard definition Freeview, and although the US media industry initially stated that they would not license shows to the UK without copy management, in the end they did.

Question 2: Do you agree that the BBC?s proposed multiplex licence amendment represents the most appropriate means for securing an effective content management system on HD DTT? :

No. I do not believe that there is any appropriate means for "content management", in the sense that the term is used here. Inevitably any scheme will be cracked by serious hackers and commercial pirates within a period of time after its release, and so in the long term it will inconvenience the public while having little affect on commercial piracy operations.

Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed change to Condition 6 in the Multiplex B Licence? :

No. While clause 3.7 of the consultation states that the BBC would license the required look-up tables to organisations that "wish to make use of...[the codes]... within a system incorporating open source software", I find it very unlikely that the licensed codes themselves would be open source. Making these codes open source would render them pointless, as anybody could then use them for any purpose, and the BBC would loose the control that it seeks over devices that can receive its HD programme guide. If the codes are not open source, and cannot be used for any purpose, then by my understanding they will not be compatible with the GPL license that governs most open source software, and thus could not be used within GPL-licensed systems.

Question 4: Do you agree that Multiplexes C and D should be granted a similar amendment to their Licences as Multiplex B?. :

The same problems apply.

Question 5: Do you agree that the BBC?s proposed approach for implementing content management would safeguard citizens and consumers legitimate use of HD content, and if not, what additional guarantees would be appropriate? :

No. Please see the "Additional comments" section above. The appropriate guarentee would be that no restictions would be placed on the equipment that is used to display, record or play back this content.

Question 6: Do you agree that the BBC?s proposed choice of content management technologies will have only a negligible impact on the cost of HD DTT receivers and their interoperability with other HD consumer equipment? . :

No.
As I understand it, the look-up tables in question will only be licensed for use in recievers that encrypt their outputs for flagged content. This means that these receivers cannot be used with existing HD-capable TV sets or other devices, which may have no facility for receiving and decrypting this encrypted signal.

Question 7: Do stakeholders agree that the BBC?s proposed Huffman Code licensing arrangements would have a negligible effect on the market for HD DTT receivers? :

Yes, provided that licensing remains free, although it would also prevent the future emergence of open source systems to compete with these.

Question 8: Do the BBC?s proposed content management states and their permitted use for different categories of HD content meet the requirements of other HD broadcasters on DTT? . :

I have no idea.

Question 9: Are there any issues that you consider Ofcom should take into account in assessing the BBC?s proposal, that have not been addressed by this consultation?: