

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:

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? :

No. Content management, or DRM, imposes undue restrictions on consumers in general, and will probably do nothing to prevent piracy as most (if not all) DRM mechanisms so far implemented today have been broken by dedicated hackers. So DRM only exists to hinder legitimate users of content.

The DRM proposed will hinder the consumer in their viewing of the content being broadcast in that it limits what they can do with it - for example, when I record something from the TV that I particularly like, I like to archive it on a computer and then I have the freedom to watch it on any of the devices in my household. This archival inevitable involves a format shift to reduce the storage requirements and to increase compatibility.

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 think that content management is entirely unnecessary. The vast majority of consumers would not have the technical know-how to transfer broadcast content into a format suitable for distribution over the internet under either scheme - so the scheme merely adds unnecessary cost and complexity.

There are lots of studies out there that clearly demonstrate that copyright infringement does not impact music sales - indeed, it usually causes an increase due to increased exposure to artists you would not normally purchase music from. I am confident that parallels can be

drawn between the music and video industry in this regard (not that I am encouraging infringement of either medium).

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

No - broadcasts should not be allowed with embedded DRM

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

No

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 - how would having something that restricts the use of material actually safeguard that use? If anything it harms the legitimate use.

Take, for example, the broadcast of an old, but still within copyright, film. A householder records this (with DRM) to their PVR. Copyright then expires - the householder should then have the right to make unrestricted copies, but the enforced DRM effectively extends the copyright term indefinitely.

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? . :

It will probably be a negligible cost impact, but interoperability will probably also have its teething problems (as did HDMI/HDCP)

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? :

No - EPG information should be entirely free for all to decode, as it currently is.

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? . :

Probably - other broadcaster undoubtedly also want to restrict what people can do with supplied content. One of my main concerns is that the proposals offer a flexibility to add DRM to everything, irrespective of what the original intention was

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?: