

Question 1: Which of the three options do consultees favour, and why?:

2. 20% on all digital channels.

Ask yourself whether access to just 10% of channels would be acceptable to anyone else, and I suspect you'll find your answer.

Programme makers need to understand that the provision of audio description is simply another standard aspect of production. It should be factored into the budget and considered an integral part of delivery from the outset.

Question 2: Do consultees have any further suggestions for future access service provision? If so please provide the rationale for these suggestions:

When blind and partially sighted people are able to experience television with the same sense of inclusion and enjoyment as everyone else, we will have done enough. In the meantime, the question of what other provisions should be provided is obvious: More audio description.

Work also needs to be done with regard to access to programme schedules. With the move to the digital switchover, this should have been considered as part of the process. Sadly, it looks as though EPG services from a range of providers have not considered access to information for blind and partially sighted people. The technology exists, what we lack is the imperative.

Comments: