

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

Although the provision of access services do not currently apply to Viasat as all of its Ofcom licensed channels are non-uk facing, we believe that it would be reasonable to remain with the status Quo in this instance and favour Option 1. Viasat agrees that the provision of access services is a valuable resource for people with visual or hearing impairments, but also understands that there will be further technical requirements and significant costs for all broadcasters should the requirement for access services increase, and we believe that such costs and the amount of work required for the technical implementation are disproportionately high and cumbersome for the greatest number of commercial broadcasters -.

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

Comments:

INFORMATION ABOUT VIASAT

Viasat Broadcasting, with its main offices in London, Chiswick, is the broadcasting division of Modern Times Group MTG AB, and operates businesses which make it the largest broadcaster of free TV and satellite premium pay TV services in Scandinavia and the Baltics as well as one of the leading broadcasting groups in Europe reaching viewers in 30 countries.

MTG companies currently produce and operate 30 free TV channels and more than 25 pay TV channels which are received throughout Europe with perhaps the best known channels being those broadcast under the TV3 brand. 25 of these channels are operated from the UK and regulated by Ofcom.

MTG also operates the Viasat satellite platforms in Scandinavia and the Baltics and distributes television services via IPTV, mobile phones, the Internet and xDSL.

Although Viasat does not currently apply to the provision of access services as all of its Ofcom licensed channels are non-UK facing, it supports the need to provide people with visual and hearing impairments with the necessary means to enjoy TV entertainment services.