

3rd September 2009

Response to Ofcom Consultation
Part 4 – Sexual Material Rules (Code Section One)

Background

Freesat is the UK's free satellite TV platform; it is jointly and equally owned by the BBC and ITV and is a not-for-profit company. Freesat is licensed by Ofcom as a digital TV platform.

Freesat provides viewers with free access to television, radio and interactive services. Customers make a once-only purchase, with no subscription or contract. Using Freesat-approved equipment, customers have access to over 140 channels and services. Freesat requires that all channels and services on the platform are licensed by Ofcom, or that they hold an equivalent licence from an overseas regulator.

Context

Freesat does not own or operate its own television channels. Neither does it have any control over programme content distributed via the platform. As a free television platform, Freesat does not carry adult pay or subscription services.

General Response

In consideration of the above, Freesat does not feel it is appropriate to submit a detailed response to this consultation, but strongly welcomes any clarification for broadcasters which helps protect under-18s from being exposed to inappropriate material.

Freesat is required to carry all free-to-air licensed services. In this respect, Freesat awaits Ofcom's forthcoming consultation on Participative Television, which relates to 'adult entertainment' and 'adult sexual entertainment' material, where the primary purpose is revenue generation through invitations to call adult chat telephone lines. These channels are typically free-to-air and are, therefore, eligible for inclusion on the Freesat EPG. Freesat will study this consultation and respond where appropriate

Mark Briggs
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