

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Vic

Surname:

Carter

Name and title under which you would like this response to appear:

as above

Representing:

Self

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep nothing 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

Question 1: To what extent do you consider that DTT, DSat, cable and IPTV are in competition with one another for subscribers of pay TV services ? either at present or in the future?:

Being a pensioner, the current free-view platform is a cost effective way of getting alternative programmes and upgrading to digital TV at the changeover. This should be retained making sure that any pay services are additional and use the same set top box (as Setanta)

Question 2: To what extent do you consider the Proposal is likely to deliver benefits to the consumer?:

Any benefit (if Sky proposals were allowed) would not benefit the current users now, the only benefit would be to BskyB.

Question 3: To what extent do you consider that there is scope for sustainable competition in pay TV on the DTT platform and, more broadly, across all pay TV platforms?:

I feel that competition on free view would not be sustainable, partly because of the need for an additional box and would be to the detriment of the free view concept.

Question 4: What are likely to be the key aspects of competition between providers of retail pay TV services on the DTT platform? E.g. what is the role of premium sports and movies content?:

The key aspects of competition would be as seen previously between Sky and Virgin, purely a financial battle between providers and ignoring the consumers. Would lead to increasing domination of sport by Sky, to the detriment of those sports as currently seen in football. The cheque book rules, local sport suffers with all finance going to the big clubs and TV forces smaller clubs into the need to conform to Sky's needs.

Question 5: Do you consider that if Sky were to become the only provider of pay TV on the DTT platform it would be likely to have a significant detrimental effect on competition in the long term? How might this affect the development of other platforms for the delivery of pay TV services?:

Sky moving to free view but needing a different box would eventually eliminate competition by offering sport and channels not available elsewhere at initially low prices. As the sole rights to screen sports would be bought up by Sky, other platforms would not enter the market, as we see, all the most popular sports are no longer on BBC as they cannot financially compete.

Question 6: To what extent, if at all, do you consider that the Proposal would be likely to lead to any of the public policy concerns outlined at Section 4?:

The main concern is those people who cannot afford to pay for TV over the current licence fee.
competition would be limited to getting the largest amount of subscribers in the short term, hoping to eliminate any competition, this putting the current free view platform in doubt.

Question 7: Specifically, to what extent do you consider that the Proposal would be likely to lead to consumer confusion?:

Very great confusion, as was seen with the two VCR formats, with the inevitable demise of one of them, as in Beta max.

This may be the way the battle that is happening over HD players, between HDTV and BLUERAY,

the result may be as with VCR, one will win, but the consumer will lose if the wrong format is chosen.

Question 8: To what extent do you consider that it is beneficial for consumers to be able to obtain Sky and existing DTT pay TV content without having to purchase separate STBs?:

Very important, pay programmes must be on the same set top box as free view, and programmes must be additional, as Setanta.

Question 9: Do you consider that the Proposal might lead to any additional public policy concerns:

The concerns over dominance of TV rights and its effect on other suppliers (i.e. BBC) remain, and Skys effect effect on things not directly concerned with TV, mainly sport.

Question 10: If Sky becoming the only provider of pay TV services on the DTT platform were likely to have a significant detrimental effect on competition, do you consider that it is possible to address this through a set of additional conditions and/or directions? If so, what form should those conditions/directions take?:

I don't believe that there significant conditions that Sky would accept that could prevent a detrimental effect on the competition, they would get around any conditions set. What reason can they have to even consider being on free view, as they already have a complete subscription package, other than to eliminate a package aimed at people who are not prepared to pay for their channels.

Additional comments: