

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Stephen

Surname:

Chalmers

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

Mr S Chalmers

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

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?:

It is a hugely competitive market. The only way consumers seem to be able to get regular quality sport and movie channels is by subscription unfortunately.

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

I personally do NOT support the proposals.

Whilst it may offer additional consumer choice (at a price) it nevertheless would reduce the amount of FTA material on the limited DTT platform. Ofcom has made it clear it will not gift additional spectrum to Freeview from the Digital Dividend process, I believe they should require the DTT outlets to be all FTA and restrict subscription services to satellite and cable only where there is ample spectrum.

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 believe there should be NO subscription services on DTT at all. There is limited spectrum, meaning only about 80 channels (including radio) and if HD is to be introduced then space will become even more critical.

There is plenty space on satellite and cable networks for subscription, please keep DTT free for all totally.

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?:

I believe there should be NO subscription services on DTT, or at least no new ones.

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 has already too strong a market position, I say keep them off DTT altogether.

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?:

With DSO now started I believe it is important to maintain the "free" nature of delivery. If Sky wish to withdraw their 3 existing channels then good riddance to them anyway, but NO SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES in their place!

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

During the critical period of DSO I believe there should be a moratorium on new services on Freeview. If Sky or others wish to withdraw services then let them, but Ofcom should ensure that they are not replaced by subscription alternatives.

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?:

I do not support any subscription services on DTT at all.

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

This could be seen as the thin end of the wedge, with subscription services gradually taking over from FTA.

Existing FTA services (except of course the BBC) already have copious amounts of adverts to the point of making them almost unwatchable. This does not reduce with subscription, it is just a licence for the supplier to print money.

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 would like to see Ofcom ban subscription services from DTT altogether.

The DTT spectrum is limited and even if it means a reduction in the choice of material, let there be one platform that is truly FTA.

Those wanting specific and specialised services can always go to satellite, and in some cases cable.

Additional comments:

I would sum up my response by saying, keep the FREE in Freeview!

DTT is a limited platform, there is no additional space to be gifted after DSO, as a regulator Ofcom can keep the platform FTA especially during the DSO period to 2012.