

Your response

Overview

We welcome the opportunity to respond to Ofcom's call for input on UK preparations for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23). Our response is focused on Section 5: Broadcast TV & Support Applications.

Talking Pictures TV is an independent archive film and television channel where audiences can relive some of the rarest and greatest gems from film history. Talking Pictures TV is on Virgin 445, Freesat Channel 306, Freeview Channel 82, Youview Channel 82 and Sky Channel Number 328.

Our position

We are advocating for a 'no change' position on WRC-23 agenda item 1.5 "*Review of the frequency band 470-960 MHz with potential IMT identification*". Decisions taken at this World Radiocommunication Conference will have a lasting and wide-ranging impact on UK broadcasting.

The case for DTT services

DTT and radio services delivered via an aerial enjoy broad support, across all age groups and regions. Research undertaken by Ipsos on behalf of Arqiva shows that 90% of adults across Great Britain believe broadcast services should continue to be supported. More than 8 in 10 (85%) believe government or local MPs should actively support continued provision of these services.¹ A significant change in the UK's spectrum arrangements could put these services at risk.

DTT is free at the point of use – delivering a diverse range of content, including public service broadcasting. This provides access to affordable and reliable programming that has a clear impact on personal wellbeing and community cohesion.

Conclusion

Talking Pictures TV is delighted to respond to this call for input and looks forward to working with Ofcom as you continue your preparations for WRC-23. It is important that the right decisions are taken at the Conference and that Ofcom protects the UK's interests by safeguarding the future of DTT and radio broadcasting for decades to come. We would like to reiterate our support for a 'no change' position on the 'review of the frequency band 470-960 MHz with potential IMT identification'.

¹ Ipsos (2022). *The Importance of Digital Terrestrial Television and Broadcast Radio*
https://www.arqiva.com/Importance_of_Broadcast.pdf