

hi Jacquie,

I hope this finds you well.

I just read about Ofcom holding the BBC to account in the latest AIM newsletter and my label Damanbly is a small indie and member of AIM and a licenced MCPS Publisher.

I would like to offer some input if I may and welcome Ofcom tackling the BBC and we have campaigned for change for the last decade with other label mates within and outside of AIM.

The key points for us are the BBC is effectively a cash cow for major labels who gain most of the playlist spots and are thus able to create a loop of high spending & high return while the indies often can't afford pluggers as their return might not be enough to break even and that's got nothing to do with quality, it's just money. The weird youth content rules BBC Radio 1 have only apply to indies while major's can get away with Foo Fighters etc. The abuse of BBC Introducing by majors is also worth highlighting.

The concept of DJ's on the BBC is a misnomer as producers/music teams and effectively pluggers control the content and this whole system of pretending any prime time dj is a music guru is just ridiculous when they are only figureheads with little or no input. The BBC on the one hand holds aloft the memory of John Peel as a saint and inspirational character forever championing new music and challenging the status quo ( Peel was allowed 100% freedom to play what he liked) but simultaneously the BBC will never let that happen again. They just need to employ people that know about music and love it as John Peel did and not media career types and not celebs/actors that they can shape into brands and that will have a natural balancing effect.

I do have loads of complaints and dialogue with BBC managers and producers that does have details like how pluggers works that might be of interest as myself and other labels have long been trying to affect change as we all miss John Peel and the old BBC.

cheers

George

George Gargan  
*Co-Director*