

Organisation (if applicable):

Action on Hearing Loss

Additional comments:

About us

Action on Hearing Loss is the new name for RNID. We're the charity working for a world where hearing loss doesn't limit or label people, where tinnitus is silenced - and where people value and look after their hearing.

Our response will focus on key issues that relate to people with hearing loss. Throughout this response we use the term 'people with hearing loss' to refer to people with all levels of hearing loss, including people who are profoundly deaf. We are happy for the details of this response to be made public.

Question 1: Do consultees agree with the proposed approach to setting audience share thresholds for other EU Member States? If not, do they have practicable alternatives that they would like to propose, which would be comparable with the approach taken to domestic channels:

Action on Hearing Loss welcomes the opportunity to comment on Ofcom's proposals for access services on non-domestic channels. We agree with the proposals to require the provision of access services on non-domestic channels, and agree that the requirements should be the same as those on domestic channels. We believe this requirement will have a positive impact on the viewers in other countries who have sensory impairments. This will help to improve access to television for many people across Europe.

Question 2: Do consultees have any comments on whether the approach taken to assessing the costs faced by domestic licensees is also appropriate to non-domestic licensees? If so, what alternatives would they propose, and why:

No comment

Question 3: Do consultees have any comments on how it is proposed to assess the cost of providing access services, including the provisional assessment of costs:

No comment

Question 4: Do consultees agree that non-domestic channels required to provide access services with effect from January 2014 should be permitted to commence provision in accordance with the targets corresponding to the first anniversary of the notice date:

No comment

Question 5:Do consultees agree that Ofcom should count language subtitling towards access service targets for subtitling:

No comment

Question 6:Do consultees agree that, for a transitional period of two years from 1 January 2013, broadcasters should be allowed the alternative of providing additional subtitling in place of signing, in order that they can have the opportunity to devise alternative arrangements that may be more beneficial to sign language users:

No comment

Question 7:Do consultees have any comments on the proposed changes to the Code on Television Access Services, as set out in Annex 3:

No comment

Question 8:Do consultees have any comments on the impact assessment (Annex 2)?:

No comment