

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Colin

Surname:

Pascoe

Representing:

Organisation

Organisation (if applicable):

Viasat broadcasting Ltd

Email:

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:

Yes

Additional comments:

INFORMATION ABOUT VIASAT

Viasat Broadcasting, with its main offices in London, Chiswick, is the broadcasting division of Modern Times Group MTG AB, and operates businesses which make it the largest broadcaster of free TV and satellite premium pay TV services in Scandinavia and the Baltics as well as one of the leading broadcasting groups in Europe reaching viewers in 25 countries.

MTG companies currently produce and operate 30 free TV channels and more than 25 pay TV channels which are received throughout Europe with perhaps the best known channels being those broadcast under the TV3 brand. 25 of these channels are operated from the UK and regulated by Ofcom.

MTG also operates the Viasat satellite platforms in Scandinavia and the Baltics and distributes television services via IPTV, mobile phones, the Internet and xDSL.

Overall, the clarifications and amendments proposed for the review of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code is in line with Viasat's expectations and Viasat supports almost all of the changes put forward by Ofcom in its review. Viasat is concerned however that a number of decisions made by Ofcom recently have resulted in a more restrictive approach and would benefit from further clarification in specific areas of the review or be considered for an update to the guidance notes. We will make these known in the main consultation questions below.

Question 1: a) Do you consider that the rule in relation to ?adult-sex? material needs to be clarified? b) Do you agree with our proposed amendments to the rule on ?adult-sex? material (Proposed Rule 1.18 to replace Rule 1.24)? c) If you do not agree with our proposed amendments, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

We agree that this section needed clarification and agree to the amendments made in proposed rule 1.18.

Question 2: a) Do you consider that the introduction of a new rule in relation to material of a strong sexual nature is appropriate? b) Do you agree with our proposed rule on material of a strong sexual nature (proposed Rule 1.19)? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new rule, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

We agree that this rule needed to be added to make clear the considerations broadcasters were required to make when justifying material of a strong sexual nature on an unrestricted service.

Question 3: a) Do you consider that the rule in relation to material equivalent to the BBFC R-18 rating needs to be separated from the rule in relation to R-18 rated works? b) Do you agree with our proposed rule on material equivalent to the BBFC R-18 rating (proposed Rule 1.17)? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new rule, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

We agree that the separation and proposal to Rule 1.17 to include 'material equivalent' was needed.

Question 4: a) Do you consider that the rule in relation to pre-watershed material needs to be clarified? b) Do you agree with our proposed

amendments to the rule on pre-watershed material (proposed Rule 1.20 to replace Rule 1.17)? c) If you do not agree with our proposed amendments, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

We agree that this rule needed clarification. We do however see the need for clear explanation of the meaning 'sexual behaviour' as this description can be interpreted very differently by viewers who are from different cultural backgrounds. Clear clarification of the meaning 'sexual behaviour' may also benefit from two separate rules within 1.20. From the beginning of this rule until the sentence ending with 'serious educational purpose', may be seen as one rule. And from 'Any discussion on' until the end of rule 1.20 maybe another. The reason being that 'sexual intercourse' & 'sexual behaviour' may be considered as the same and therefore a distinction may be made by separating the rule into two.

Question 5: a) Do you consider that the associated revisions are appropriate following the other rule revisions outlined above? b) Do you agree with our proposed associated revisions in Section One? c) If you do not agree with our proposed revisions, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Question 6: a) Do you wish to suggest an alternative approach to the proposed set of rules in relation to sexual material? If so, please outline your proposals, which should comply with relevant legislation (including the Communications Act 2003 and the European Convention on Human Rights).:

Question 7: a) Do you consider that the introduction of new rules in relation to competitions and voting is appropriate? b) Do you agree with our proposed new rules in relation to competitions and voting (proposed Rules 2.11 to 2.13 to replace Rule 2.11)? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new rules, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

The new rules in this section are clearer. We have a comment to make on the wording of rule 2.11 where it states 'fairly promoted'. Would this benefit from being 'presented fairly' as the term 'promoted' can be interpreted in a number of ways. If the term 'fairly promoted' remains, then we feel it needs clarification of its meaning.

Question 8: a) Do you consider that the introduction of new meanings in relation to competitions and voting are appropriate? b) Do you agree with our proposed new meanings in relation to competitions and voting? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new meanings, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 9: a) Do you wish to suggest an alternative approach to the proposed set of rules in relation to competitions and voting? If so, please outline your proposals, which should comply with relevant legislation (including the Communications Act 2003, the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, the

AVMS Directive (Implementation) Regulations 2009 and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.:

No

Question 10: a) Do you consider that the rules on commercial television would benefit from being separated from those for radio? b) Do you agree with the introduction of the proposed new Section Nine on commercial references in television programming? c) If you do not agree with the proposed new Section Nine, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 11: a) Do you consider that it is appropriate for Ofcom to include the enforceable provisions relating to product and prop placement, replicated from the AVMS Directive (Implementation) Regulations, as rules in the revised Code? b) If you do not consider this to be appropriate, please explain why.:

Yes

Question 12: a) Would you consider that it appropriate for Ofcom to introduce rules that would allow Public Information Programming (as described above)? If so please explain why. If not, please explain why not. b) If Ofcom were to introduce rules in relation to Public Information Programming: i. Are there any potential programmes that you believe could comply with the potential rules but that you consider would be undesirable or arguably not in the public interest? If so, please give details. ii. What impact (e.g. social, economic, equality) do you think the potential rules would have on viewers, the television industry and any other parties? iii. Do you consider that the potential rules would maintain the editorial independence of the broadcaster and provide adequate consumer protection? If not, please explain why. iv. Do you consider that additional or alternative safeguards to those included in the draft potential rules are necessary? If so, please provide details.v. Specifically, should there be any restriction on the type of non-commercial, not-for-profit entities permitted to fund Public Information Programming, and if so, what restrictions? vi. Do you consider it would be appropriate for Ofcom to review these rules two years after their introduction? If not, please explain why.:

We believe that allowing Public Information Programming would benefit the viewer and create a respected and interesting format for broadcasters to explore. We believe however that the meaning of 'Political' needs to be clarified. Also we wish Ofcom to consider the following, which may require clarification in the guidance notes to this section. If non-profit/non-commercial entities have both political and non-political agenda's are they able to fund a programme provided that the political agenda is not presented within the programme?

Question 13: a) Do you consider that the proposed new Section Nine would benefit from the introduction of new meanings? b) Do you agree with our proposed new meanings for Section Nine? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new meanings, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 14: a) Do you consider that the introduction of new Principles in relation to Section Nine is appropriate? b) Do you agree with the proposed new Principles for Section Nine? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new Principles, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 15: a) Do you consider that the proposed Rules 9.1 to 9.5 are broadly the same, in terms of both scope and intent, of current Rules 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4 and 10.12? b) If you do not consider the proposed rules are broadly the same as the current rules in this area, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate. c) Do you agree with the introduction of the proposed new Rule 9.6? d) If you do not agree with the proposed new Rule 9.6, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 16: a) Do you consider it appropriate to introduce the proposed new Rule 9.9? b) If you do not consider it appropriate to introduce the proposed new Rule 9.9, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 17: a) Do you consider that the introduction of a new competition and voting section is appropriate? b) Do you agree with the proposed new competition and voting section for Section Nine? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new competition and voting section, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate. d) Do you agree that it is appropriate to apply these rules to BBC services funded by the licence fee? e) If you do not agree that it is appropriate to apply these rules to BBC services funded by the licence fee, please explain why.:

Yes

Question 18: a) Do you consider that the rules in relation to programme-related material would benefit from clarification? b) Do you agree with the introduction of the proposed programme-related material section for Section Nine? c) If you do not agree with the proposed programme-related material section, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 19: a) Do you consider that the proposed cross reference to the Cross-promotion Code would assist stakeholders? b) If you do not consider that the proposed cross reference to the Cross-promotion Code would assist stakeholders, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 20: a) Do you consider that the meanings in relation to sponsorship of television would benefit from revision? b) Do you agree that the revised meanings are consistent with those currently used, but more accurately reflect the definition of sponsorship as set out in the AVMS Directive? c) If not please explain why, suggesting drafting changes where appropriate.:

Yes. However with in the revision to 'A sponsor is any public or private undertaking or natural person (other than the broadcaster or programme producer) who is funding the programming with a view to promoting its products, services, logos, images, name, trade marks and/or its activities.' We believe it is required to include an explanation of the inclusion of 'natural person' into this section. This may again be considered for the guidance notes accompanying this section.

Question 21: a) Do you consider that the rules in relation to the content of sponsored output would benefit from clarification? b) Do you agree with the introduction of the proposed new rules on the content of sponsored output in Section Nine? c) If you do not agree with the proposed new rules on the content of sponsored output, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes. We agree with this proposed section, however we would like to ask for further clarification of the following section. 9.18 states 'Sponsorship arrangements must not result in sponsor references being included within the editorial of the sponsored programming'. Would it be possible to include a meaning of 'sponsor references' at this point within the rule or guidance notes?

Question 22: a) Do you consider that the rules in relation to sponsorship credits would benefit from clarification? b) Do you agree with the

introduction of the proposed rule? c) If you do not agree with the proposed rule, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes. We agree with this proposed section, however we would like to ask for further clarification in the following sections. 9.21 states 'The relationship between the sponsor and the sponsored content must be clear'. We would like to know at what point the relationship becomes clear. Is a sponsor message (i.e. The Simpsons is brought to you by....) enough to make the relationship clear or are broadcasters required to make the relationship clear by including other references visually or orally between the sponsor and the sponsored content? Again an update to the guidance would be beneficial

Also 9.22 states 'Sponsorship credits must be clearly separated from programming by temporal or spatial means'. Would Ofcom be able include examples of temporal or spatial further to those already in the guidance to make it clearer to broadcasters what is and isn't allowed.

Question 23: a) Do you consider that the rules in relation to appeals for funds would benefit from clarification? b) Do you agree with the introduction of the proposed Rule 9.29 and the section on appeals for funds for programming or services? c) If you do not agree with the proposals, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 24: a) Do you consider that the proposed rule revisions are appropriate and would remain consistent with current rule requirements? b) If you not, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Yes

Question 25: a) Do you wish to suggest an alternative approach to the proposed revisions in relation to the regulation of commercial references on television? b) If so, please outline your proposals, which should comply with relevant legislation (including the Communications Act 2003, the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, the AVMS Directive (Implementation) Regulations 2009 and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.:

Question 26: a) Do you consider that the rules on commercial radio would benefit from being separated from those for television? b) Do you agree with the introduction of the proposed new Section Ten on commercial references in radio programming? c) If you do not agree with the proposed new Section Ten, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Question 27: a) Do you consider that it is appropriate for Ofcom to introduce the proposed rules concerning content-related promotions? If so, please

explain why. b) If not, please explain why. c) Do you agree with our assessment of the impact of the proposed rules on listeners, the radio industry and any other parties? Please provide any evidence or data you have to support your answer. d) Do you consider that the proposed rules would maintain the editorial independence of the broadcaster and provide adequate consumer protection? e) If not, please explain why, suggesting drafting changes where appropriate.:

Question 28: a) Do you consider that it is appropriate for Ofcom to introduce the proposed rules concerning outside broadcasts sponsored by the venue? If so, please explain why. b) If not, please explain why. c) Do you agree with our assessment of the impact of the proposed rules on listeners, the radio industry and any other parties? Please provide any evidence or data you have to support your answer. d) Do you consider that the proposed rules would provide adequate consumer protection, subject to the maintenance of full transparency concerning sponsorship arrangements? e) If not, please explain why, suggesting drafting changes where appropriate.:

Question 29: a) Do you consider that it is appropriate for Ofcom to introduce the proposed rules concerning sponsored listener competition features? If so, please explain why. b) If not, please explain why. c) Do you agree with our assessment of the impact of the proposed rules on listeners, the radio industry and any other parties? Please provide any evidence or data you have to support your answer. d) Do you agree that the proposed rules would provide adequate consumer protection, subject to the maintenance of full transparency concerning sponsorship arrangements? e) If not, please explain why suggesting drafting changes where appropriate.:

Question 30: a) Would you consider that it is appropriate for Ofcom to introduce rules that would allow Public Information Programming (as described above)? If so, please explain why. If not, please explain why not. b) If Ofcom were to introduce rules in relation to Public Information Programming: i. Are there any potential programmes that you believe could comply with the potential rules but that you consider would be undesirable or arguably not in the public interest? If so, please give details. ii. What impact (e.g. social, economic, equality) do you think the potential rules would have on listeners, the radio industry and any other parties? Please provide any evidence or data to support your answer. iii. Do you consider that the potential rules would maintain the editorial independence of the broadcaster and provide adequate consumer protection? If not, please explain why. iv. Do you consider that additional or alternative safeguards to those included in the draft proposed rules are necessary? If so, please provide details. v. Specifically, should there be any restriction on the type of non-commercial, not-for-profit entities permitted to fund Public Information Programming, and if so, what restrictions? vi. Do you consider that it would be appropriate

for Ofcom to review these rules two years after their introduction? If not, please explain why. :

Question 31: a) Do you consider that the proposed new Section Ten would benefit from the introduction of new meanings? b) Do you agree with our proposed new meanings for Section Ten? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new meanings, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Question 32: a) Do you consider that the introduction of new Principles in relation to Section Ten is appropriate? b) Do you agree with the proposed new Principles for Section Ten? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new Principles, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Question 33: a) Do you consider that the proposed Rules 10.1 to 10.5 are broadly the same, in terms of both scope and intent, as current Rules 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, and 10.12? b) If you do not consider the proposed rules are broadly the same as the current rules in this area, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate. c) Do you agree with the introduction of the proposed new Rule 10.6? d) If you do not agree with the proposed new Rule 10.6, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Question 34: a) Do you consider it appropriate to introduce the proposed new meaning of product placement, to reflect the definition required for television? b) If not please explain why, suggesting drafting changes where appropriate.:

Question 35: a) Do you consider it appropriate to introduce the proposed new Rule 10.10? b) If not please explain why, suggesting drafting changes where appropriate.:

Question 36: a) Do you consider that the introduction of a new competition and voting section is appropriate? b) Do you agree with the proposed new competition and voting section for Section Ten? c) If you do not agree with our proposed new competition and voting section, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate. d) Do you agree that it is appropriate to apply these rules to BBC services funded by the licence fee? e) If you do not agree that it is appropriate to apply these rules to BBC services funded by the licence fee, please explain why and suggest drafting changes where appropriate.:

Question 37: a) Do you consider that the rules in relation to programming-related material would benefit from clarification? b) Do you agree with the

introduction of the proposed programming-related material section for Section Ten? c) If you do not agree with the proposed programming-related material section, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Question 38: a) Do you consider that the meanings in relation to sponsorship of radio would benefit from revision? b) Do you agree that it is appropriate for Ofcom to introduce the proposed meanings in relation to radio sponsorship? c) If not please explain why, suggesting drafting changes where appropriate.:

Question 39: a) Do you consider that the rules in relation to the content of sponsored output would benefit from clarification? b) Do you agree with the introduction of the proposed new rules on the content of sponsored output in Section Ten? c) If you do not agree with the proposed new rules on the content of sponsored output, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Question 40: a) Do you consider that introduction of rules in relation to Service Level Agreements is appropriate? b) Do you agree with Ofcom's proposed rules on Service Level Agreements? c) If not please explain why, suggesting drafting changes where appropriate.:

Question 41: a) Do you consider that the rule in relation to appeals for funds would benefit from clarification? b) Do you agree with the introduction of the proposed Rule 10.55 and the section on appeals for funds for programming or services? c) If you do not agree with the proposals, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Question 42: a) Do you consider that the proposed rule revisions are appropriate and would remain consistent with current rule requirements? b) If you not, please explain why and suggest alternative wording where appropriate.:

Question 43: a) Do you wish to suggest an alternative approach to the proposed revisions in relation to the regulation of commercial references on radio? b) If so please outline your proposals, which should comply with relevant legislation (including the Communications Act 2003, Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, Schedule 1 of The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 and The Community Radio Order 2004). :

Question 44: a) Do you agree with the proposed approach which only proposes changes to Section One of the Code in relation to material of a sexual nature, only proposes changes to Section Two in relation to Competitions and

Voting, and proposes no changes to Sections Three to Eight. b) If you do not agree with our approach, please explain which other sections of the Code you consider should be reviewed and why. c) Do you agree with Ofcom's approach which will be to provide, and update, guidance to all sections on an on-going basis? If so, are there particular areas where you consider an updating of guidance would be helpful?:

Yes