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

Anonymous 24

Representing:

Self

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep name/contact details/job title 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?:

Dsat is a monopoly provider as one entity controls the content and distribution mechanism and uses this power to limit competitor activities as shown recently in the dispute with Virgin. The lack of interworking between the technologies and high costs to switch for consumers (inflexible contracts, different bundling strategies from the providers) mean that there is no effective competition at present for Sky.

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

It will be extremely harmful for the millions of freeview consumers who will see an immediate reduction in the number of channels they will receive. The technical integrity of the platform will be broken and Sky will be able to disrupt the commercial activities of their 'competitors' while their monopoly remains unchallenged in the Dsat market.
People who want more paytv can get it elsewhere, leave freeview alone!!

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?:

There are too few channels on freeview as it is. It is absurd to think of a single market across the platforms when there is no effective commercial or technical interworking.

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?:

There is too much premium content on the platform. The Topuptv channels are a waste of airtime and the ethics of this company are unsound with their basic marketing materials being misleading about charging and terms of business. Setanta and BT seem to have a straightforward business model whitch doesn't seek to exclude other operators.

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?:

Yes, they have already demonstrated their ability to abuse their monopoly position. They will continue to do so to keep their potential competitors weak and divided.

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?:

Sky are playing games with the regulator to undermine their competition. They should be obliged to float their content distribution off into a completely separate business (like BT's Openreach). Similarly Virgin for their cable network. With open access freely available across the platforms and the internet we would then be able to see genuine innovation in offerings for the consumer. Until then, hands off freeview!

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

As above, not just confusion but downright destruction of the simplicity of the offering.

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?:

'One box to rule them all' capable of integrating content from whichever source would be good if/when they appear but it runs against the current regulatory silo mentality which exists to preserve Sky's and Virgin's monopolies. Who would have the motivation to create such a thing while the current monopolists control the delivery and interworking standards?

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

By diminishing the choice on freeview it could undermine the whole concept and lead to an ever growing group of tv 'have nots' as the diminishing audience generates a vicious cycle of reduction of quality and choice of content on freeview for those who can't pay.

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?:

Sky have a track record of abusing their monopoly!! Sky should be obliged to provide open access to their distribution through a separate commercial entity. There should be open standards to allow broadcast material delivered via different distribution mediums to be displayed at the point of reception. Content and distribution must be separate (have I said it enough times yet!!).

Additional comments: