

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Douglas

Surname:

Potter

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

Doug P

Representing:

Self

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:

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?:

They are in great competition. Freeview and it's DTT colleagues TopUpTv and Setanta are a great rival to BskyB and Cable. They will form a bigger block to subscriptions to the latter two once analogue services start being switched off.

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

Very little. It deprives the poorer areas of society from an excellent source of news and sports news and entertainment and replaces it with a service costing hundreds of pounds a year. If anyone wants the proposed Picnic services they are available to them from at least two other sources.

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?:

Competition to BSkyB paytv is very weak. Virgin will survive, but TopUp is weak and Setanta is a fledgling service. More should be done to block the domination of BSkyB in paytv.

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?:

Football is the key sports aspect. If Setanta weren't showing a decent football service then the proposal would never have been made. Movie content is a virtual BSkyB monopoly anyway.

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?:

It would be an appalling state of affairs. Sky already dominate satellite. There must be competition and DTT should be competition to Sky not part of or dominated by it.

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?:

Not a particular problem.

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

To some great extent. Nobody seems to understand, for example, that Freeview is not all of DTT. Freeview customers would be very confused by the loss of the free Sky channels.

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?:

None at all. This is a consumer choice. If you want and can afford satellite or cable then go for it. If you cannot or don't want Sky then Freeview should be a choice of alternative not a part of Sky.

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

The sole remaining news channel on Freeview, News 24, would have a dangerous monopoly of 24 hour news on a major platform.

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 should not be allowed to remain providing paytv if Topup or Setanta go bankrupt. Sky News should be provided free regardless.

Additional comments:

This is a dangerous proposal designed to expand Sky's power over television. It is a red herring that it increases competition. The size of Sky would probably remove all competition in paytv bar cable. I am heartily against this greedy and selfish proposal by Sky.