

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

John

**Surname:**

Siddle

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

Blawith & Nibthwaite TV Booster Scheme

**Representing:**

Organisation

**Organisation (if applicable):**

Blawith & Nibthwaite TV Booster Scheme

**Email:**

N/A

**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: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal to license digital self helps for areas currently served by a self help relay, and how we propose to make available licences? If not, please give your reasons.:**

We would prefer not to have to rely on a self-help relay but if it is the only way for us to receive a terrestrial signal we have to accept that. We also accept that licensing is in itself reasonable.

**Question 2: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal to license digital self helps for areas not currently served by a self help relay, and how we propose to make available licences? If not, please give your reasons.:**

This question does not concern us.

**Question 3: Do you agree with how Ofcom proposes to deal with the frequency planning for self help relays? If not, please give your reasons.:**

At this stage we have no objection to what is proposed but until we know more about what frequency planning will mean for us it is difficult for us to comment.

**Question 4: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposed fee for WTA licences for self help relays? If not, please give your reasons.:**

We accept that a licence for self-help relays will be needed but, as explained below, we do not believe that we should be penalised for not receiving an adequate signal in the normal way - a signal which we understand that the BBC is obliged to provide. Any proposed fee should be waived.

**Additional comments:**

We offer our views on the consultation document as a volunteer committee acting on behalf of our local community on a not-for-profit basis.

Our views on the consultation questions reflect our overall opinion that, while the proposals seem reasonable in principle - although theoretical, as much of the key information is not yet available to us - we question the assumption that we must be obliged to pay additional sums to receive what 99% of the population take for granted with their BBC TV licence fee. We pay the full BBC fee but are not able to receive an adequate signal..

(a) We note that only some 12,000 households in Great Britain are unable to receive the good quality reception for which the BBC charge a licence fee. Since around half of these households are in Scotland and Wales, it presumably means that there are no more than about 6,000 disadvantaged households in England. We live where we live and the geography of the local terrain is not something we can or would wish to change.

(b) While accepting our responsibilities as volunteers to run our self-help relay station we feel it is unfair that we should pay exactly the same fee as others who have excellent reception without having to make any additional effort.

(c) Assuming it proves to be necessary, we plan to continue our self-help relay station on behalf of the local community but formally request that our BBC TV licence fee be adjusted downwards, or be subject to a rebate, to reflect the additional costs we bear to achieve reception in our area.

In due course we would be interested in receiving advice on whether we can switch from an active deflector to a transposer with encryption, so as to enable us to ensure that only people who contribute towards the cost of our self-help scheme are allowed to benefit from it.