

## **Consultation on Media Ownership Rules**

This response represents the views of the King's Church, Longmead Road, Epsom.

Firstly, we are grateful for the opportunity to express our views on the future of media ownership in the UK. It is an issue that we care about.

Our comments will be focused on the issues around religious ownership of the media, but we do welcome the general spirit and tenor of the consultation paper.

### **Religious ownership**

We welcome the proposed lifting of the disqualification for religious bodies to own a local terrestrial digital licence for radio.

We are of the view that the Government should remove all further restrictions on religious organisations holding broadcasting licences. Therefore religious broadcasting organisations should have the legal right to hold:

- National digital (DAB) sound programme service licence
- Local digital (DAB) sound programme service licence
- DAB multiplex licence (local or national)
- DRM radio licence (local, national or international)
- Local analogue AM or FM licence (Commercial or Access radio)
- Cable or satellite radio licence
- Cable or satellite TV licence
- Local TV licence

We believe that it is misguided to think that religious bodies are somehow unique from secular bodies when it comes to subscribing to a set of values and beliefs. Every organisation whether religious or secular will operate within a framework of values and beliefs that cannot help but be reflected within the broadcast material.

So whilst we accept that the content of religious broadcasts may offend some, those offended can deal with it in the same way that we do at present, if offended by secular broadcasting – switch over, or switch off.

Peter Rice  
Church elder  
On behalf of the King's Church, Epsom