

Response to the Consultation on Media Ownership Rules

Unfortunately, I have only had time to read the consultation document very briefly. I would like to make some brief responses on the following issues:

Diversity/Plurality: I would like to see some controls maintained as I am concerned about the quality and range of choice that would be available with no controls at all. At present there does seem to be a reasonable level of choice on both terrestrial TV and Radio and I would like to see this maintained. I think this is particularly important for news services so that we are able to continue to have differing approaches to the reporting of stories. In particular, I value the role of the BBC in British broadcasting and would like to see this maintained. On a related point, watching digital channels can already be a frustrating experience just because of the numbers and length of adverts!

Religious Ownership: I would like to see Christians able to own and run a radio and TV stations. With digital services, this type of broadcasting would largely be special interest broadcasting and so should not in itself lead to offence etc. as those not interested would not be listening/watching. As far as control of content is concerned, I would suggest that owners should have the approval/endorsement of a major representative Christian body, such as the Evangelical Alliance before they are allowed to own a station and/or you ask such a body to frame some guidelines/rules on what may be transmitted.

Political Ownership: I would agree with the suggestion in the paper that political parties are not allowed to own/control stations and that the current reasonably balanced access of parties to broadcasting time is maintained.

Advertiser Ownership: If this is to be allowed, please could it be ensured that all 'advertising material' is clearly labelled as it is in newspapers as advertisements / advertorials so that we are able to properly discern the value of what we see/hear.

Thank you,

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