



Consultation for the Core Receiver Requirements for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme – Summary of responses

The Department undertook a consultation on proposed changes to the Core Receiver Requirements (CRR) for the Help Scheme. The consultation ran from 1st September to 13th October 2008 and invited comments on 3 key issues (see text in bold below). There were seven respondees to the consultation one of which asked that their comments be treated as confidential. A summary of the 6 unclassified responses follows:

a) Do you agree with the concept of having a single set of CRR applicable to all equipment on all platforms? If not, please state why not.

Most respondents agreed with the concept of a single set of CRR applicable across all service platforms. There was also broad agreement that no single platform should be advantaged over another – a level playing field in the selection of the Most Cost Effective Option was seen as vital.

One respondent was concerned about the timing of the roll-out for different platforms. In trying to establish new CRR for switchover in Wales (August '09), there was a concern that manufacturers of digital satellite receivers would not have sufficient time to upgrade equipment to comply with the revised text

Another respondent was concerned that the CRR guidelines could mask the advantages of certain platforms and that greater flexibility was needed in the application of the CRR.

b) Do you agree with the proposed changes to the energy efficiency standards? If not, please state why not.

Most respondents were satisfied that the EU's voluntary Code of Conduct on Energy Efficiency of Digital TV Service Systems was an appropriate guide for determining the energy efficiency requirements for the CRR. Nevertheless, one respondent saw merit in a flexible approach to energy consumption levels and wanted provision for other measures such as auto-standby. While another suggested an alternative set of energy limits spanning a period of three years, but did not provide a reference point for the proposed limits.

One respondent asked that no energy allowances should be made for features over and above the help scheme requirements in determining the most cost effective option. This was because the majority of beneficiaries of the help scheme were in a group known to be particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty.

c) Do you agree with the changes proposed for a one button access to audio-description? If not, please state why not.

Five respondents agreed with this proposal directly. One respondent would be willing to adapt its existing AD functionality to incorporate a further means of activating/deactivating AD services.

d) Other comments

The following suggested additions to the CRR were made:

- The box shall only respond to infrared signals from its own remote control.
- Picture and sound should be maintained when the program guide (EPG) is in use.
- The box should feature a switch mode power supply, either internal or external.
- To make on-screen navigation information and programme guides accessible via voice output.
- A requirement for DCMS to consult on any CRR changes which arise from revisions to the D-book.
- The issue of return path functionality for the Help Scheme equipment should be kept under review.

In addition to the above, a number of minor drafting points were raised by one respondent.

DCMS has responded to each of the consultees on the points they raised either by letter or in a meeting with interested parties. The Department would like to thank all respondees for assisting with the CRR review process.