

BVD 6/3/1/20 pr 2

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 24 June 2003 19:43
To: [Redacted]
Cc: 'mpst.hewitt@ [Redacted] RAMSAY
ANDREW; ZEFF JON; [Redacted]
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BUSH BILL; [Redacted] Sarah Hunter (E-mail)
Subject: Plurality test and localness

[Redacted]

Thanks for your 2 submissions yesterday on these topics.

We discussed them briefly earlier this afternoon. The SoS's thoughts are as follows.

Plurality tests

She agrees the test should be framed as narrowly as possible at the outset
She is certain that it should only be a test for mergers in areas without ownership rules
She is clear that the test must be for a plurality of owners, not views.

I hope this gives you enough to work with. The questions that she didn't feel equipped to answer were the detailed ones:

- Whether the precise scope of the test should be written on the face of the Bill.
- Whether the route should be the Enterprise Act or the change of control provisions.

Please provide further advice on these two points. She may well want a meeting to discuss all this, so I need a notion of the deadlines for decisions, too.

Localness

She agreed we should maintain the requirement for OFCOM to issue guidance on localness, rather than specific licence conditions

She is happy for some references to 'music' to be inserted

She is not willing to do a deal with the CRCA on consultation. She thinks OFCOM should be required to consult wherever there is a proposed change of character.

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