



RESPONSE OF CHANNEL 5 BROADCASTING LTD TO DIGITAL UK CONSULTATION ON EXPANDING AND REPOSITIONING IP DELIVERED SERVICES

Channel 5 welcomes the opportunity to respond to this short consultation.

We accept Digital UK's argument that there is increased demand from the YouView based platforms for dedicated LCNs. We also accept that the most straightforward way to meet this demand is to set aside a range of 300 LCNs from LCN 300 to LCN 599. And we note that the BBC, as the only provider of interactive services that would be affected by the move, is supportive of this change.

However, while there are currently around 30 unallocated LCNs in the main General Entertainment genre and a further 20-odd in the 151-169 range, we believe these could be used up in the next few years. The second temporary multiplex has yet to be launched, while improved compression can enable additional capacity in the existing multiplexes. Meanwhile, Ofcom suggested recently¹ that a full DVB-T2 upgrade to the DTT platform could lead to 60 more SD channels and a dozen extra HD channels (without taking account of geographic or daypart splits of capacity).

Therefore over time the number of linear broadcast channels may well exceed the current 1-199 range and some further redrawing of the entire LCN map will become necessary. So it is important that, if Digital UK agrees the current changes, it does so without prejudice to a future reallocation of LCN numbers that could see IP delivered services moved back into a higher number range.

With this proviso, Channel 5 responds in the positive to both consultation questions.

Channel 5 Broadcasting Ltd

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¹ Ofcom, *Consultation on future use of the 700 MHz band*, 28 May 2014, Page 48, Table 5