



Statement on proposals to reserve logical channel numbers within content genres for HD-only channels.

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1 Executive Summary

This statement sets out Digital UK's decision following our consultation on a proposal to amend the LCN Policy to reserve channel numbers within content genres for HD-only channels. The consultation was published on 16 December 2015 and closed for responses on 26 January 2016.

The consultation set out two approaches:

- Option 1 Maintaining the status quo
- Option 2 Reserving LCNs in content genres for HD-only channels while continuing to allocate in the HD technical genre.

With HD technology becoming widely adopted across devices, we recommended the policy amendments set out in Option 2 as the best course of action to support prudent LCN management in the event of any future decision to integrate the HD technical genre into the content genres.

While any decision to integrate the HD channels would be a matter for consultation, the reservation process articulated in our consultation ensures that HD-only channels are not disadvantaged vis-à-vis their simulcast peers.

Eight of the nine responses to the consultation were in favour of our LCN reservation proposal set out in Option 2. The remaining response did not oppose but sought clarity on the potential impact on their Local TV service which is delivered in SD. Where these are not confidential, the respondents are listed in Appendix 1.

Digital UK has decided to implement the proposals set out in Option 2 and will amend the LCN Policy to reserve logical channel numbers within content genres for HD-only channels.

1.1 Summary of consultation responses

There was broad agreement across respondents that the reservation process was a sensible and fair way to future proof the LCN listing, for the reasons set out in the consultation.

While STV agreed with our proposal to reserve LCNs for HD-only services it queried the future treatment of regional PSB services which do not now and may never have full HD versions, specifically in the event the HD genre was closed.

As set out in the consultation any proposals to close the HD genre would be a matter for a future consultation and issues such as those raised by STV would be considered. In the interim we agree that this is an important and complex matter and would welcome further engagement with STV, and indeed other public sector broadcasters of regional services.

London Live neither agreed nor disagreed with the recommendation but sought reassurances that these provisions were not the first step in the removal of SD channels from the DTT platform and that LCN 8 would remain allocated to Local TV. While we envisage an expansion in the number of HD services on DTT, we can confirm there are no plans to migrate the platform as a whole to HD standards. As set out in Section 1.8 of the LCN Policy, Digital UK cannot confirm any LCN allocation indefinitely, however as Local TV is a public service, we will adhere to the requirements of the EPG Code and our LCN Policy to ensure it is given appropriate prominence.

1.2 Next steps

The new version 5.4 of the Digital UK LCN Policy, which includes the Option 2 policy amendments as set out below will be published on the Digital UK [website](#) simultaneously with the publication of this statement on 29 February 2016, and will take immediate effect.

Policy amendments

At paragraph 1.8 after the words "After an LCN allocation" insert "or reservation".

2. After paragraph 2.10, insert the following:

2.11 If a channel is allocated an LCN in the HD genre and has no standard definition simulcast channel on the DTT platform, Digital UK may also reserve the lowest available LCN in the genre in which such simulcast channel would otherwise have been allocated an LCN.

2.12 Digital UK may at any time elect to revoke or amend any reservation made under paragraph 2.11 if it considers it appropriate for prudent LCN management, and channel providers will have no rights to any reserved LCN. For the avoidance of doubt, paragraphs 6, 7.6 and 8 shall not apply to reserved LCNs.

2.13 Reservations made under paragraph 2.11 will automatically be revoked if a standard definition version of the channel is allocated an LCN on the DTT platform, or the channel is withdrawn.

The provisional reservation of LCN 75 for QVC+1 HD is now confirmed.

Since the conclusions from this consultation do not necessitate the change of LCN of any existing channel on the platform, there is no further actions required to implement the decisions contained within this statement.

Appendix 1

There were a total of 9 responses to the consultation, including:

- Arqiva
- BBC
- Ideal World
- London Live
- STV

Non-confidential responses are published on our [website](#).