

Ref: AIDCF/FY 26-27/05

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To,

Dr. Deepali Sharma

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Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,

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New Delhi - 110029

Sub: AIDCF's comments regarding TRAI's Consultation Paper on 'Formulation of Regulatory Framework for Application- Based Linear Television (ALTD) Services [including Free Ad-Supported Streaming Television (FAST) Services]'

Ref:

1. TRAI's Consultation Paper dated 06.04.2026 on 'Formulation of Regulatory Framework for Application- Based Linear Television (ALTD) Services [including Free Ad-Supported Streaming Television (FAST) Services]'
2. TRAI's Press Release No.58/2026 dated 04.05.2026 extending the last date for submission of comments to 11.05.2026

Respected Madam,

All India Digital Cable Federation (AIDCF), representing the country's leading Multi-System Operators (MSOs) providing digital cable television services across India, appreciates the efforts of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) as well as Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to address the prevailing issues qua Application- Based Linear Television (ALTD) Services including FAST.

The rapid advancement of technology has significantly transformed the overall broadcasting landscape across the globe. India has emerged as a hotspot where the transformation is evident at a large scale. Distribution of TV channels, which was once the exclusive domain of licensed DPOs, has now expanded to a wide array of unregulated content delivery modes, including but not limited to video OTT and Free-Ad Supported Streaming Technologies (FAST), etc.

If we trace the history, we find that mobile applications delivering linear content were introduced around 2010-2013 when use of smartphones gained ground. Applications were launched by various companies including some broadcasters with the intent to provide Linear Television content, on the mobile phones well. For instance, Zee

Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) entered the 'Over- The-Top' segment with Ditto TV for the first time in 2012 and widely publicised OTT as *Over-The- Top (OTT) distribution platform¹*, Ditto TV, which offered Live TV channels and video on demand to consumers across various devices. The intention behind the launch was stated to be one which would enable *ZEEL's content* from leading genres such as GEC, sports, lifestyle and news to be taken across platforms such as mobile phones, tablets, laptops, desktops, entertainment boxes and connected TV's. The applications were conceived, conceptualised and promoted as extensions of the existing linear television, offering linear content on devices other than conventional television.

Therefore, OTT platforms were essentially distribution platforms only, which were launched with the intent to offer live channels and Video on Demand content. This was portrayed as a flexible, customizable way of enjoying TV and Video-On-Demand content. The act was more of a novel business model based on technological advancements to increase revenues and engage audiences (on account of increased use of mobile phones), rather than a completely new method that fell outside the scope of the act of 'distribution' when viewed in the whole broadcasting landscape.

In due course of time, these platforms which started as distributions platforms, re-branded themselves as 'streaming platforms', 'online video streaming services platforms', 'video-on-demand services', 'internet-based services', to evade regulatory compliance, which would have defined their businesses.

Needless to state that these services with the new modes of content distribution began violating the downlinking guidelines issued by MIB under the garb of licensing and regulatory lacune choking the traditional linear television, which follows the Downlinking guidelines issued by MIB as well as TRAI broadcasting regulations like Interconnection, Tariff and QoS.

It is on account of this distortion that the Distribution Platforms have been coerced to face unfair competition, operate in a non-level playing field, face unprecedented economic challenges, experience unforeseen revenue losses, face decline in employment etc. which has brought the Linear Television sector on the verge of an untimely death.

¹ "Flashed yesterday: Zee enters 'Over The Top TV' segment with Ditto TV" dated March 1, 2012, available at <https://www.exchange4media.com/media-tv-news/flashed-yesterdayzee-enters-over-the-top-tv-segment-with-ditto-tv-45608.html> and The digital arm of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEE), Zee New Media, launched India's first and only OTT (Over-The-Top TV) distribution platform, Ditto TV, with an aim to offer LIVE TV Channels and On Demand Video Content to consumers on their Mobile Phones, Tablets, Laptops, Desktops, Entertainment Boxes and Connected TVs., available at <https://www.zee.com/in-the-news/home-news-zee-new-media-forays-into-the-ott-segment-with-ditto-tv/>

It would not be wrong to say that the lacunae lay in the legislative and regulatory inaction to bring these budding platforms within legal and policy oversight in a timely manner.

The legal and regulatory void clubbed with technological advancements in communication technologies proved to be perfect breeding grounds for unchecked proliferation of such platforms/services. However, it left the Distribution Platform Operators remediless and exposed them to unprecedented challenges, without providing any legal or regulatory support.

One of the key aspects, wherein it has become indispensable to bring online based applications/distribution platforms under broadcasting service authorization, is the rampant violation of laws of the country. The channels which are not approved and registered with Hon'ble Ministry of information and broadcasting are freely broadcasted by these online internet-based application and many of the content available on these channels/platform poses a significant security threat to the country sovereignty.

The foundational intent behind the Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines, introduced on 5th December 2011, was to ensure that '**No television channel will be permitted for public viewing without registration or permission from Ministry**'.

Therefore, clear up linking and downlinking guidelines were framed and amended from time to time. The key excerpts from the "downlinking guideline" dated 5th Dec 2011 states as:

*"Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, has formulated policy guidelines for downlinking all satellite television channels downlinked / received / transmitted and re-transmitted in India for public viewing. **Consequently, no person/entity shall downlink a channel, which has not been registered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under these guidelines**"*

*"Henceforth, all persons/ entities providing Television Satellite Broadcasting Services (Television Channels) uplinked from other countries to viewers in India as well as any entity desirous of providing such a Television Satellite Broadcasting Service (Television Channel), **receivable in India for public viewership, shall be required to obtain permission from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed under these guidelines**"*

The above-quoted downlinking guidelines were amended on 9th November 2022, wherein the intention remained the same. The key clauses of the guidelines which outline the requirements for any channel to be transmitted for public viewing in India

along-with a brief description of the violations that FAST channels are indulging in are listed below:

S. No.	Clause No. of Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines	Clause Details	Violation of Downlinking Guidelines by FAST Channels
4	Clause 11(3)(f)	<p>11. Grant of permission -</p> <p>...</p> <p>(3) The Grant of permission to a company/ LLP shall be subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(f) It shall provide Satellite TV Channel signal reception decoders to MSOs/Cable Operators registered under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 or to a DTH operator registered under the DTH guidelines issued by Government of India or to an Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) Service Provider duly permitted under their existing Telecom License or authorized by Department of Telecommunications or to a HITS operator duly permitted under the policy guidelines for HITS operators issued by the Ministry;</p>	<p>As per downlinking guidelines the satellite channel decoders can only be provided to DTH, HITS, IPTV and MSOs.</p> <p>Whereas delivery of ALTD channels/FAST services/channels without the need for any decoders effectively defeats the purpose and intention behind the relevant clause incorporated in the up-linking and downlinking guidelines.</p>
5	Clause 11(3)(h)	<p>(h) It shall ensure that any of its channels, which is unregistered or prohibited from being telecast or transmitted or re-transmitted in India, under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 or the DTH guidelines or any other law for the time being in force, cannot be received in India</p>	<p>As detailed in the appendix of this response, several TV channels, which are not licensed/registered by Hon'ble Ministry, are being illegally broadcasted in the country under the garb of licencing ambiguity by the online internet based ALTD applications/FAST applications.</p>

		through encryption or any other means	Detailed lists of such 'unregistered TV channels' being transmitted illegally in the form of FAST services on prominent platforms such as Distro TV, Yupp TV, Samsung TV Plus, LG WebOS are highlighted in the appendix of this response.
6	Clause 20(1)	<p>20. Name and logo of a TV Channel</p> <p>(1) A company/ LLP shall display on the permitted TV channel only that name and logo which has been approved by the Ministry.</p> <p>Provided that display of name/ logo other than that permitted or display of dual logo would be treated as a violation of the Guidelines inviting penal action.</p>	<p>The name and logo of a TV channel is approved by MIB for usage of the same to retransmit these channels through registered DPO's.</p> <p>The irony is that the same name and logo are being used by online internet-based applications on their platforms, thereby directly violating the guidelines.</p>

The combined reading of the respective clauses indicates that individual TV channels which are licensed to broadcasters by the Hon'ble Ministry of information and broadcasting, after being uplinked to satellites in encrypted form, can only be downlinked and retransmitted by authorized licensed service providers i.e. registered distributors, thereby clearly categorizing that only 'licensed TV channels' can be distributed in India that too only through 'licensed service providers like MSO, DTH, HITS & IPTV. Any other method of distributing such channels would constitute a legal violation.

In view of the above, please find below our question wise response, and we hope that Hon'ble Authority will appreciate the submissions made and fill in the legal as well as regulatory lacunae to restore the much-needed balance in the Broadcasting and Cable Ecosystem.

Question No.1: What should be the appropriate definition and scope of Application-based Linear Television Distribution Services, i.e., 'ALTD Services' in the Indian broadcasting context, taking into account terminologies available internationally? Stakeholders are requested to provide their comments with detailed justification.

AIDCF Response

1. The platforms often refer to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, as the relevant law which governs them and their functioning. Following definitions deserve to be noted:

Rule 2(u): 'Publisher of online curated content'

'publisher of online curated content' means a publisher who, performing a significant role in determining the online curated content being made available, makes available to users a computer resource that enables such users to access online curated content over the internet or computer networks, and such other entity called by whatever name, which is functionally similar to publishers of online curated content but does not include any individual or user who is not transmitting online curated content in the course of systematic business, professional or commercial activity

Rule 2(q): 'Online curated content'

'online curated content' means any curated catalogue of audio-visual content, other than news and current affairs content, which is owned by, licensed to or contracted to be transmitted by a publisher of online curated content, and made available on demand, including but not limited through subscription, over the internet or computer networks, and includes films, audio visual programmes, documentaries, television programmes, serials, podcasts and other such content;

2. In order to craft a definition that is suitable to regulate these platforms, it is essential to examine the manner in which these platforms define themselves and their businesses. This is also essential because India is unique in itself and the socio-economic conditions clubbed with the buying capacity of the consumers, the demographics and etc. accords a unique status to India and the manner in which Indians consume content.
3. Hence, while international terminologies can definitely lend a helping hand to ascertain best practices and verify the common consensus/approach qua these new services/platforms, it is indispensable for us to examine the parameters that are found in the Terms and Conditions/ Terms of Use and the Privacy Policy of these services/platforms to be able to draft a definition that suits the Indian scenario.

4. The Terms of Use² of JioHotstar Platform mention that it provides an online website and associated mobile sites, applications, games which are an interactive platform for viewing various kinds of content. The Privacy Policy³ states that JioStar India Private Limited is the owner, operator and manager of the JioHotstar Platform.
5. The Terms of Use⁴ of Zee5 Application state that the Application is owned by Z5X Global FZ LLC, situated in Dubai, UAE and provide the Content on Devices, which is available on various platforms such as iOS, android and supported web

² "JioStar inter alia provides an online website 'www.hotstar.com' as an interactive platform for its viewers and any associated mobile sites, applications, games ("Site") to inter alia view serials and programs, films, sports content including live sports content, trailers of upcoming serials, view videos and/or photos of their favourite characters on serials, read recaps of serials, international content including viewing schedules of content offered, provide interactive games plays etc. on or through the Site and any other features, tools, applications, materials, or other services offered from time to time by JioStar in connection with its business, provided on or through the Site ("**JioStar Content**")." (Terms of Use Available at <https://www.hotstar.com/tnc/in>)

³ JioStar India Private Limited (formerly known as Star India Private Limited), Star House, Urmi Estate, 95 Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai 400013, India ("**we**", "**us**", "**our**", "**JioStar**") is the owner, operator, manager of the JioHotstar Platform ("**Platform**" or the "**JioHotstar Service**, which includes all the features available on the Platform"). Privacy Policy available at: <https://www.hotstar.com/privacy-policy/in>

⁴ Welcome to ZEE5 Application, We provide both free and subscription-based service that allows Our End Users to access entertainment content including movies and series streamed over the internet to certain Devices. The website "www.ZEE5.com" ("**Site**") and Application is owned by Z5X Global FZ LLC, situated in Dubai, UAE, ("**Z5X**").

`Application` means the ZEE5 application owned by Z5X to provide the Content on Devices, which is available on various platforms such as iOS, android and supported web browsers etc.

`Content` means all text, graphics, images, music, software, audio, video, information or any other materials available on ZEE5.

`Devices` means any and all internet enabled devices like smart phones, tablets, laptops, desktops, etc. which are compatible with and have access to the Internet.

`ZEE5` means ZEE5 website, ZEE5 mobile web, and any other future variations or domain, Application and any present and future means and modes to offer ZEE5's service.

`Subscription Package` and/or `Subscription` means a combination of one or multiple live to channels, video on demand, TV shows, movies, music or any other information or entertainment based Content priced at a specific amount decided by Z5X at its sole discretion.

Z5X reserves the right to modify or discontinue ZEE5 at its sole discretion with or without notice to you. Further, Z5X reserves the right, at any time, with or without notice and without any liability to: modify the prices for Subscription Packages or any part of ZEE5 service. Further, Z5X reserves the right to change packaging and introduce base and add on packages and/or offer channels on a-la-carte basis; Terms of Use available at: <https://www.zee5.com/termsfuse>

browsers etc. However, the Privacy Policy⁵ creates a legal relationship between the Users and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL).

6. The Terms of Use⁶ of Distro TV states that the Company DistroScale.Inc provides an online video service which gives users the opportunity to select from various offerings of live and on-demand programming, including television shows, movies, music, clips, photos, text, interactive features, metrics, and other content. The Privacy Policy⁷ further states that the Platform is used by DistroScale and its partners on their websites, mobile applications and other digital media properties to display editorial and sponsored content. Advertisers and/or their agents (which we collectively refer to as "Media Buyers") partner with us to buy advertising on these Digital Media Properties.
7. The Terms and Conditions⁸ of Yupp TV states that it provides online entertainment services such as access to digital content, including but not limited to audiovisual programs, movies, music videos, linear television channels, events,

⁵ We, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited ("We", "Us", "ZEEL") value the trust placed in Us by You and therefore, we follow the highest standards of privacy guidelines to protect the information shared by You with Us. This Privacy Policy ("Privacy Policy") governs the use of Your Personal Information shared (as defined below) with or collected by ZEEL from the users or subscribers of the Zee5 platform, including the Zee5 website, and mobile applications ("ZEE5"). Privacy Policy available at <https://www.zee5.com/privacypolicy#india-terms>

⁶ DistroScale, Inc. ("DistroScale", "we," or "us") provides an online video service which gives users the opportunity to select from various offerings of live and on-demand programming, including television shows, movies, music, clips, photos, text, interactive features, metrics, and other content (collectively, the "Content"). Our video service, the Content, our player for viewing the Content (the "Video Player") and any other products, features, tools, materials, and other services are offered through a variety of Access Points (defined below) and are referred to collectively as the "Services". The term "Access Points" collectively refers to the distro.tv website (the "DistroScale Site"), applications, and other places where any Services are available, including other websites, applications of DistroScale's third-party distribution partners, and other mediums the Video Player is available. Terms of Use available at https://www.distro.tv/terms_of_use/

⁷ Privacy Policy accessible at <https://www.distro.com/privacy-policy/>

⁸ YuppTV provides online entertainment services such as access to digital content, including but not limited to audiovisual programs, movies, music videos, linear television channels, events, soaps, serials, trailers and other audio-visual programs at such Fees, for such Term, in the Territory and on the terms and conditions as set out in this Agreement. User hereby agrees that Services are provided based on the rights provided to YuppTV by Content Provider. Services shall include the following:

- a. Free content for which a User may be required to register on the Site by providing details such as, name, phone number and email id, in order to consume content on the Site;
- b. Subscription packages for which the any User may subscribe to such packages made available by YuppTV, by paying such Fees as fixed by YuppTV, for the Subscription Term in the Territory. Registration is mandatory for any User in order to subscribe to any subscription packages mentioned hereinabove;

Terms and Conditions available at : <https://www.yupptv.com/help/terms-and-conditions>

soaps, serials, trailers and other audio-visual programs at such Fees, for such Term, in the Territory and on the terms and conditions as set out in this Agreement. Further, the Privacy Policy⁹ sets out how YuppTV USA Inc. and its affiliated companies within the YuppTV Group collect, use, disclose, process, store, transfer and protect any personal information that Users give them when they use the services.

8. Terms and Conditions¹⁰ prescribed by Prasar Bharati for WAVES OTT state that Prasar Bharati OTT Platform offers a variety of content and interactive features including serials, programs, movies, sports content (including on-demand and live sports), trailers, videos, photos, games, and other services. The services include Prasar Bharati's own content and content from Partner Platforms and can be accessed through various modes such as on demand video streaming, offline downloads, separate sites or mobile apps.
9. A bare perusal of the above indicates that the manner in which the platforms/services define themselves, varies from business to business. However, major characteristics features include a service which-
 - i) is made available through various modes including but not limited to software applications (pre-installed or downloadable), website, social media intermediary, internet browser, any other internet-based interface, or any other online medium over various devices including but not limited to connected TV Sets, Smart TV Sets, smartphones/mobile phones, laptops, tablets etc. as part of a systematic business, professional and/or commercial activity.
 - ii) provides any curated catalogue of audio-visual content, other than news and current affairs content, which is owned by, licensed to or contracted to

⁹ Yupp TV Privacy Policy accessible at : <https://www.yupptv.com/help/privacy-terms>

¹⁰ Prasar Bharati OTT Platform offers a variety of content and interactive features including serials, programs, movies, sports content (including on-demand and live sports), trailers, videos, photos, games, and other services ('Services').

a. The Services include Prasar Bharti's own content and content from partner platforms and third-party content as well. All such content collectively constitutes 'Content'

b. You can access the Content through various modes, including on-demand video streaming, offline downloads (offline playback), and separate sites or mobile apps.

c. Downloads are temporary and are intended for viewing within a specified period. Permanent copies are not allowed.

The Services may be offered through different models, including:

- a. Free access with advertisements
- b. Subscription- based access
- c. Pay-per-view
- d. A combination of the above

Terms and Conditions for WAVES OTT accessible at: <https://www.wavespb.com/terms-conditions>

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be transmitted by a person, and made available on demand, including but not limited through subscription, over the internet or computer networks, and includes films, audio visual programmes, documentaries, television programmes, serials, podcasts and other such content;

- iii) distributes television channels or curated programming streams in a continuous and scheduled format;
- iv) distributes channels registered under registered under Section 6(6) of the Cable TV Network Regulation Rules, 1994 via live stream or through digital feed.
- v) does not use traditional cable, satellite, or terrestrial broadcasting infrastructure and does not involve any direct involvement of a network operator or an Internet Service Provider;
- vi) may include features such as electronic programme guides, limited time-shifting, or interactive overlays, without altering the essential linear nature of the service.

10. International Perspectives:

A. Canada

Canada had amended its Act to bring the entities providing transmission over the internet under the legal and regulatory ambit. The following definitions provided under the Broadcasting Act, 1991 (as amended by the Online streaming Act, 2023)¹¹ are relevant and merit consideration:

- a. Part I, Section 2 of the Broadcasting Act defined Broadcasting as:

'broadcasting' means any transmission of programs – regardless of whether the transmission is scheduled or on demand or whether the programs are encrypted or not – by radio waves or other means of telecommunication for reception by the public by means of broadcasting receiving apparatus, but does not include any such transmission of programs that is made solely for performance or display in a public place.

- b. This definition covers all modes of transmission irrespective of the means or technology involved in the said transmission and includes transmission of 'on-demand' programs by any means of telecommunication within the definition of 'broadcasting'. The definition does not create any distinction between a

¹¹ https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/AnnualStatutes/2023_8/page-1.html

service which is provided through an open network such as internet or any other mode.

- c. The definition of broadcasting under the Canadian Broadcasting Act, resonates with the definition of 'Broadcasting Services' provided by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its various Regulations and which reads as under:

"broadcasting services" means the dissemination of any form of communication like signs, signals, writing, pictures, images and sounds of all kinds by transmission of electro-magnetic waves through space or through cables intended to be received by the general public either directly or indirectly and all its grammatical variations and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly."

- d. The Canadian Broadcasting Act uses the nomenclature 'online undertaking' to define all the platforms which are being used for transmission/re-transmission of programs over the internet. Part I, Section 2 of the Canadian Broadcasting Act defines 'Online Undertaking':

"to mean an undertaking for the transmission or retransmission of programs over the Internet for reception by the public by means of broadcasting receiving apparatus"

- e. In the Canadian context, definition of 'Online Undertaking' is the closest definition available to define transmission of content over internet.

- f. Furthermore, the definition of 'Online Undertaking' has been included in the broader definition of 'Broadcasting Undertaking' which has been defined to

"include a distribution undertaking, an online undertaking, a programming undertaking and a network"

- g. **These definitions are crucial as** OTT Platforms in India have consistently been taking a stand that they fall outside the purview of 'Broadcasting Services'. The basis for this self-imposed exclusion is that they are 'video-on-demand' Platforms/video streaming platforms and offer their services 'over-the-internet'/'public networks'.

- h. However, the above-mentioned international perspective by Canadian authorities, demolishes that proposition and brings the services rendered by OTT Platform owners to mean Broadcasting Service.

Hence, the Canadian perspective deserves to be considered and looked into to recommend that transmission or retransmission of programs over the Internet whether scheduled or on-demand amounts to a Broadcasting Service.

i. United Kingdom

- a. United Kingdom has enacted the Media Act, 2024, which made amendments to its existing Communications Act, 2003. The Media Act added Part 3A which deals with the 'Prominence on Television Selection Services' (TSS). A copy of Part 3A of the Communications Act, 2003 is enclosed as **Annexure 1**.
- b. It is submitted that Free Ad Supported Television Streaming Services and the service of transmitting content over internet have been defined under the phrase '**Television Selection Services**' in the context of United Kingdom.
- c. **Section 362AE** of the UK Communications Act, 2003 (as amended) defines TSS in the following manner:

(1) *In this Part, "television selection service" means a service or a dissociable section of a service, provided by means of the internet and in connection with internet television equipment, which consists of –*

- a) the presentation of the internet programme services included in the service or the dissociable section of the service, and*
- b) a facility that enables the user –*
 - (i) to make a selection between those services or between programmes provided by those services or both, and*
 - (ii) to access the service selected or the programme selected or both.*

(2) *In subsection (1), "internet television equipment" means any apparatus or combination of apparatus specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State setting out the descriptions of apparatus or combinations of apparatus that are internet television equipment for the purposes of this Part.*

(3) *Regulations made by virtue of subsection (2) may –*

- a) provide for references to internet television equipment to include references to software used in association with apparatus, and*
- b) describe apparatus or a combination of apparatus by reference to software used in association with the apparatus or any of it.*

(4).....

(5) *The person, and the only person, who is to be treated for the purposes of this Part as providing a television selection service is the person who has general control over the manner in which the service presents to its users the internet programme services that are included in the service.*

(6) *The fact that a television selection service relies to any extent on algorithms to determine the prominence given to –*
a) *an internet programme service included in the service, or*
b) *any programme provided by an internet programme service included in the service, does not prevent a person from having general control as described in subsection (5).*

d. **Section 362AF** of the UK Communications Act, 2003 (as amended) further defines a “regulated television selection service” as under:

(1) *In this Part, “regulated television selection service” means a television selection service which –*

(a) *is for the time being designated by regulations made by the Secretary of State, or*

(b) *is of a description specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.*

e. **Section 362AG** provides that OFCOM can advise regarding the exercise of powers regarding ‘Regulated Television Selection Service’ and *inter alia* states that OFCOM may prepare reports making recommendations about the exercise of the power under section 362AF(1)(a) or (b),

f. It is submitted that the definition of Television Selection Services can be considered and be relied upon for defining the Application Based Linear Television Distribution Services. Furthermore, the definition of Regulated Television Selection Services is also useful and provides insights into the criteria that could be considered while regulating such a service by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

B. In view of the above discussion, AIDCF proposes that the while ALTD Services need to be defined, the definition of the service provider is also essential.

Application/Internet-based/internet-enabled Content Distribution (CD) Service Provider means and includes

i. A company registered under the Companies Act 2013; which engages in the business of providing/owning/managing/operating an application based/Internet-based/Internet-Enabled service/platform to distribute **its own content** and which is allowing access to consumers of the said platform/services through different models including but not limited to:

- a. Free access with advertisements
 - b. Subscription- based access
 - c. Pay-per-view
 - d. A combination of the above
- ii. Publisher of online curated content as defined under Rule 2(u) of Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Application based Linear Television Distribution (ALTD) Service Provider means and includes

- i. A company registered under the Companies Act 2013 which engages in the business of providing Television Channels (duly registered and licensed by government with their approved channel name and logo), or its programmes or its programming guide through Application-based/Internet-based/Internet-Enabled distribution services/platforms by way of different models including but not limited to:
 - a. Free access with advertisements
 - b. Subscription- based access
 - c. Pay-per-view
 - d. A combination of the above
- ii. Publisher of online curated content as defined under Rule 2(u) of Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which are providing linear television channels on their platform

Application based/Internet- based/Internet-Enabled/ Linear Television Distribution Platform means and includes

- i. an interactive platform made available by an ALTD Service Provider by way of internet enabled/internet-connected devices such as connected television, smart television, smart phones, tablets, laptops, desktops, etc. which are compatible with and have access to the Internet for its viewers over websites, any associated mobile sites, applications, games etc., to inter alia view linear television channels registered under Section 6(6) of the Cable TV Network Regulation Rules, 1994, serials and programs, films, trailers of upcoming serials, recaps of serials, on or through the Site and any other features, tools, applications, materials, or other services offered from time to time by the ALTD Service Provider, in connection with its business, provided on or through the Site or associated mobile sites, application etc.

Explanation: Application based/Internet- based/Internet-Enabled/ Linear Television Distribution Platform shall amount to distribution service into a ‘Broadcasting Service ecosystem’

Application/Internet-based/internet-enabled Content Distribution (CD) Service/Platform means and includes:

- i. an interactive platform made available by a Content Distribution service provider by way of internet enabled/internet-connected devices like smart phones, tablets, laptops, desktops, etc. which are compatible with and have access to the Internet for its viewers over websites, any associated mobile sites, applications, games to inter alia view video on demand, movies, music or any other information or entertainment-based Content, sports content including live sports content, trailers of upcoming serials, view videos and/or photos of their favourite characters on serials, read recaps of serials, international content including viewing schedules of content offered, provide interactive games plays etc. on or through the Site and any other features, tools, applications, materials, or other services offered from time to time by the CD Service Provider in connection with its business, provided on or through the Site or associated mobile sites, application etc.
- ii. Online curated content as defined under Rule 2(q) of Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Question No.2: The ‘ALTD Services’ ecosystem involves multiple entities, including application providers, television equipment manufacturers, operating system providers, broadcasters, content providers, content aggregators and other technology or solution providers. However, the application provider appears to play a central role in the distribution of linear television channels across various business models. In this context, should the Application Provider be designated as the primary stakeholder responsible for obtaining authorisation for the provisioning of ‘ALTD Services’?

- a. If yes, please provide detailed justification and supporting reasons.
- b. If not, please identify the appropriate stakeholder(s) who should be responsible for obtaining such authorisation, along with rationale.

AIDCF Response

1. It is not wrong to suggest that the ‘ALTD Services’ ecosystem involves multiple entities, including application providers, television equipment manufacturers, operating system providers, broadcasters, content providers, content aggregators and other technology or solution providers. However, the question as to who

plays the central role and who should be designated as the primary stakeholder is complex and deserves a strict and careful scrutiny.

2. Deciphering the 'primary stakeholder' in this complex ecosystem, which seems to be evolving by involving multiple entities annually (to say the least) is a daunting task as it will be the point of contact and the authority accountable for ensuring compliance with the legal, policy and regulatory framework. This exercise cannot be taken in ignorance of the manner in which the platforms are conducting their operations. At present the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy are the only documents that are available publicly, from which one can draw insights regarding the parties involved, their roles and responsibilities and the fixation of liabilities inter se.
3. Famelack/Garden TV¹² is an ALTD Platform that provides several permitted Linear Television Channels. It is operated by a company incorporated in and based in the United States of America. It claims to make the Linear Channels available through an open public directory on GitHub which claims to bring international free streams directly to the browser. The company/platform as such do not host, own, or control any content but only provides access to publicly available content.
4. Distro TV¹³ is another ALTD Platform that provides several permitted Linear Television Channels through its website and mobile application. The platform is created, owned and managed by a Company named DistroScale, Inc. which is incorporated in USA and based in San Mateo, California). The documents state that:
 - a. The company is offering Services only to users in the United States. However, it is offering content to Indian audiences by streaming Linear Channels permitted by Ministry of I&B, Govt. of India.
 - b. The company can link its website to other third parties but will not be responsible for any content hosted by the said third parties.
 - c. The content provided on the platform is on 'as is' basis and without warranties of any kind, either express or implied.
 - d. The Company exonerates itself from any warranties including warranties qua purpose, title, merchantability, completeness, availability, security, compatibility, noninfringement, interruption/cessation of the services, any viruses or malicious code transmitted to/through the service by any third party, or availability or removal of any content; or that the services will be

¹² Refer case studies at the end of the response.

¹³ Refer case studies at the end of the response.

uninterrupted, free of viruses and other harmful components, accurate, error free, or reliable.

5. Similar disclaimers are found in the Terms of Use¹⁴ of JioHotstar where it categorically states that the use of services and the access to the Site is at the User's own risk. The Services provided by the company including the Site, the Content, the Online Games, the video player, User Material as well as other materials contained on or provided through the Site are provided on "AS IS" basis, and JioStar does not make any warranties or guarantees qua the same.

6. **In view of the above, AIDCF humbly submits that:**

- i. Since the **Application Provider** is the entity responsible for creating, launching, owning, maintaining the application or operating platform and is the primary interface with which the Users will connect, it deserves to be recognized as a Primary Stakeholder for obtaining authorisation for the provisioning of 'ALTD Services'.
- ii. However, other entities also deserve to be recognized as they play crucial roles, without which the Application Provider alone may not be able to distribute linear TV content.
- iii. **Television equipment manufacturers** (especially manufacturers of Smart TVs and Connected TVs) ought to be recognized as key stakeholders for obtaining authorisation for the provisioning of 'ALTD Distribution Platform /Services' because they manufacture and are acting as distributors of the devices on which the Application is loaded and accessed by the User. Mandating these entities to obtain authorization will ensure that only authorized/registered/permitted applications reach the User.
- iv. **Mobile and Tablet manufacturers** ought to be recognized as key stakeholders for obtaining authorisation for the provisioning of 'ALTD Distribution Platform/Services' because they manufacture and are acting as distributors of the devices on which the Application is loaded and accessed by the User. Mandating these entities to obtain authorization will ensure that only authorized/registered/permitted applications reach the User.
- v. **Operating system providers** for mobile phones/tablets/ought to be recognized as key stakeholders for obtaining authorisation for the

¹⁴ Accessible at <https://www.hotstar.com/tnc/in>

provisioning of '**ALTD Services**' because they provide the Operating System for Smart TVs, Connected TVs, Mobile Phones, Tablets etc. Without the proper Operating System, it will not be possible for any Application to function on any device. The online market places provided by the Operating System providers i.e. their respective Application Stores (eg: Google Play, App Store etc.) are the touchpoints from where users download applications for free and then use them in their respective devices. Mandating these entities to obtain authorization will ensure that only authorized/registered/permitted applications reach the User.

- vi. **Broadcasters** ought to be recognized as key stakeholders for obtaining authorisation for the provisioning of '**ALTD broadcasting Services**' because they provide content for Linear Television Programmes to ALTD distribution platforms. Mandating these entities to obtain authorization will ensure that content is only provided to authorized/registered/permitted distribution platforms.
- vii. **Other Content providers** and **content aggregators** ought to be recognized as key stakeholders for obtaining authorisation for the provisioning of '**ALTD Services**' if they are providing Linear Television Programmes. Mandating these entities to obtain authorization will ensure that content is only provided to authorized/registered/permitted Distribution platforms/applications.
- viii. The authorization for **other technology or solution providers** must be devised after considering their respective unique roles in the whole ecosystem.

Therefore, the ALTD services shall be bifurcated into ALTD broadcasting services and ALTD distribution services. The stakeholders which are providing/curating/producing content should take authorization under ALTD broadcasting service/GBB/Satellite based broadcasting and the entities which are providing these services directly to consumer should be asked to take authorization for ALTD distribution services, which shall be at par with other DPOs.

For International perspectives, reference may be taken from Ofcom's Designation of Television Selection Services submitted to Secretary of State dated 16.12.2025 where Ofcom has recommended that the following Television Selection Services be designated as Regulated Television Selection Services:

- i) Amazon Fire TV OS 6, 7

- ii) Android TV 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14
- iii) Apple TV OS 18
- iv) Freely
- v) Google TV 10, 11, 12 and 14
- vi) LG WebOS 22, 23, 24 and 25
- vii) Roku OS 14
- viii) Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen) 7, 8 and 9
- ix) Sky Entertainment OS;
- x) on V6 ITE
- xi) YouView on EE TV (Sagemcom ITE)
- xii) YouView on Sony ITE 6 Sky Q
- xiii) VIDAA OS U6, 7, 8 and 9;
- xiv) Virgin Media Horizon;
- xv) 7 Virgin Media TiVo

A copy of Ofcom's Report dated 16.12.2025 is annexed as **Annexure 2**.

Question No.3: What should be the terms and conditions including fees or charges for the grant of service authorisation to the application providers provisioning 'ALTD Services' in India, under the 'Television Channel Distribution Services' as recommended in Annexure-II of 'Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025'? Stakeholders are requested to provide their detailed comments including but not limited to the following conditions:

- a. Service Area**
- b. Validity Period**
- c. Eligibility Conditions**
- d. Minimum Net worth**
- e. Processing Fee**
- f. Entry Fee**
- g. Bank Guarantee**
- h. Authorisation Fee**
- i. Security Deposit**
- j. Roll Out Obligations**
- k. Any other terms and conditions**

Further, what terms and conditions/obligations should be put in place for foreign entities providing 'ALTD Services' in India?

AIDCF response:

1. Before proceeding to the detailed response, it is humbly submitted that while the response is being submitted by drawing reference from the 'Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025', it must not be interpreted to mean that any Framework for ALTD Services will be contingent upon or subject

to the acceptance of the Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It is humbly submitted that the Framework for ALTD Services can be accepted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, independent of the status of acceptance of Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025.

2. At the outset, it is submitted that ALTD services shall be part of the definition of “Television Channel Distribution Services” provided as clause no.1. (44) of Annexure II and should also be part of “Distribution service provider” as defined in clause no. 1 (11) of the same Annexure II of the TRAI recommendation dated 21st February 2025.
3. In addition to this, all the terms and conditions applicable on Television Channel distribution services, provided in Part II, section 2, of Annexure III, of TRAI recommendation dated 21st February 2025 , which are applicable on DTH, HITS and IPTV, shall also be applicable on ALTD FAST services and they should be registered with similar authorization framework as applicable on DTH, HITS & IPTV. This will help in bringing a licensing and regulatory parity between all the industry players providing similar services i.e. broadcasting services. Moreover, it will also help in removing any regulatory ambiguity, which is being abused from last 10-15 years due to absence of any regulatory framework. The Authorization Framework shall be applicable to all the stakeholders involved in providing ALTD Services i.e. Application Provider, TV Equipment Manufacturers, Mobile/Tablet manufacturers, Operating System Providers, Broadcasters, Content providers, Content aggregators and other Technology/ Solution Providers.
4. The following eligibility conditions shall apply to all stakeholders:
 - i) The applicant entity shall be an Indian Company or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) or a Joint Venture between a foreign company and an Indian company.
 - ii) The applicant entity shall fulfil all the terms and conditions laid down in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy of the Government of India, as notified by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) from time to time, as applicable. For this purpose, the applicant entity shall intimate the Central Government regarding FDI position at the time of application as well as whenever any change in the FDI in the company takes place, within 30 days of effect of such change. Every change in the FDI pattern has to confirm to the FDI policy of the Government of India, including wherever required, prior approval of the Central Government.

- iii) The applicant company/LLP shall make full disclosure of Shareholders Agreements/Capital Contribution, at the time of application, as applicable.
- iv) The applicant entity shall have a minimum Net worth of a specified amount, as applicable, at the time of application:

Provided that Net worth of only the applicant entity shall be considered to determine the eligibility and the Net worth of holding companies or subsidiaries or group companies or interconnected undertakings shall not be taken into account; Provided further that the amount of Entry Fee paid shall not be taken as a tangible asset either in full or in part for the purposes of calculation of Net worth; Provided also that the applicant entity shall submit Net worth Certificate.

- v) The applicant entity shall always have an Indian management control with majority representatives on the Board/Partnership, as well as key managerial personnel, Editorial staff, the Chief Executive/Head of channel, known by any designation of the company being resident Indian citizens: Provided that the applicant entity shall intimate the names, address and details of a person, not being resident of India, who are in the Board of Directors/Partners or proposed to be included in the Board of Directors/Partners.
- vi) The entity as well as the Directors on the Board/Partners, Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Key Managerial Personnel, known by any designation of the company or partner of a partnership firm shall be required to be security cleared from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- vii) The applicant entity shall disclose the name, address and details of every foreigner/NRI to be employed/engaged in the company/LLP either as a consultant or by any other designation for more than 60 days in a year, or, as a regular employee.
- viii) The applicant entity shall intimate the Central Government regarding the details of directorship, key executives at the time of application as well as on occurrence of any change in the directorship, key executives, within 15 days of effect of such change, under the condition that in the event that security clearance is denied by MHA, such person shall be removed forthwith from the post of director or the designated partner, as the case may be, by the Authorised Entity.

- ix) At the time of application, the applicant entity shall not have been disqualified from holding such permission/authorisation in the past.
- x) Where a company/LLP is required to remit foreign exchange under Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Instructions to a foreign entity for transaction relating to authorisation under these Rules, it may seek permission of the Central Government. Every such application shall be processed by the Central Government in accordance with the extant instructions of RBI.
5. It is noteworthy that unlike the MSOs/DTH/HITS/IPTV Operators, the ALTD Services do not demand a hefty investment in infrastructure. Furthermore, since they use the open internet as the medium of transmission, the input costs are significantly lower than what the other distributors incur. Hence, in order to ensure accountability and level playing field, the Entry Fee for the ALTD Services Providers ought to be higher than the conventional distributors and must be fixed as Rs. 10 crores for all stakeholders involved in provisioning of Distribution Services.
6. The other proposed Terms and Conditions for grant of service authorization are as under:

Srl No.	Criteria	Applicant Provider	TV/Mobile/ Tablet Equipment manufacturer	OS provider	Broadcaster	Content provider and aggregator	Other tech/ solution providers
1	Service Area	National	National	National	National	National	National
2	Validity Period	10 years	10 years	10 years	10 years	10 years	10 years
3	Minimum Net Worth	Rs.10 crore	Rs.10 crore	Rs. 10 crore	Rs.10 crore	Rs.10 crore	Rs. 10 crore
4	Processing Fee	Rs. 10,000	Rs. 10,000	Rs. 10,000	Rs. 10,000	Rs. 10,000	Rs. 10,000
5	Bank Guarantee	Rs. 5 crore or 20% of the Authorisation Fee for two quarters and other dues not	Rs. 5 crore or 20% of the Authorisation Fee for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitized,	Rs. 5 crore or 20% of the Authorisation Fee for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitized,	Rs. 5 crore or 20% of the Authorisation Fee for two quarters and other dues not	Rs. 5 crore or 20% of the Authorisation Fee for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitize	Rs. 5 crore or 20% of the Authorisation Fee for two quarters and other dues not otherwise securitized,

		otherwise securitized, whichever is higher.	whichever is higher.	whichever is higher.	otherwise securitized, whichever is higher.	d, whichever is higher.	whichever is higher.
6	Authorization Fee	8% of AGR	8% of AGR	8% of AGR	8% of AGR	8% of AGR	8% of AGR
7	Security Deposit	1 crore	1 crore	1 crore	1 crore	1 crore	1 crore
8	Roll Out obligations	Within 6 months of Registration	Within 6 months of Registration	Within 6 months of Registration	Within 6 months of Registration	Within 6 months of Registration	Within 6 months of Registration

Question No.4: What should be the common terms and conditions applicable for the authorised entities provisioning 'ALTD Services' in India, under the 'Television Channel Distribution Services' as recommended in Part-I of Annexure-III in 'Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025'? Stakeholders are requested to provide their detailed comments on the following conditions:

- a. Renewal of Authorisation
- b. Renewal Fee
- c. Equity Holding and Management Control
- d. Restriction on cross-holding of equity shares/capital contribution between
 - i. TV broadcasters and application providers provisioning ALTD services
 - ii. Application Providers provisioning ALTD services and other DSPs
- e. Transfer/Surrender of Service Authorisation
- f. Sharing of Infrastructure
- g. Any other terms and conditions

AIDCF response

1. Before proceeding to the detailed response, it is humbly submitted that while the response is being submitted by drawing reference from the 'Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025', it must not be interpreted to mean that any Framework for ALTD Services will be contingent upon or subject to the acceptance of the Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It is humbly submitted that the Framework for ALTD Services can be accepted by the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting, independent of the status of acceptance of Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025

2. **As stated in our response to Q No. 3 above, the same terms and conditions which are applicable on DTH, HITS and IPTV shall be applicable on ALTD FAST services as provided in section 2, of Annexure III of TRAI recommendation dated 21st February 2025.**

3. It will be apposite to note the expanse of operations of some of the ALTD Platforms before prescribing the applicable Terms and Conditions:
 - i. Distro TV [Total Channels: 175]
Registered Channels: 28 [Pay- 0 and FTA- 28]
Non- Registered Channels: 147

 - ii. Yupp TV [Total Channels: 139]
Registered Channels: 50 [Pay- 6 and FTA- 44]
Non- Registered Channels: 88
DD: 1

 - iii. Samsung TV [Total Channels: 179]
Registered Channels: 76 [Pay- 25, FTA- 51]
Non- Registered Channels: 103

 - iv. LG Web OS [Total Channels: 145]
Registered Channels: 72 [Pay- 22, FTA- 50]
Non- Registered Channels: 73

 - v. Famelack/TV Garden [Total Channels: 524]
Registered Channels: 345 [Pay- 42, FTA- 299, No info - 4]
Non- Registered Channels: 139
DD Channels: 38
Channels of Russian Govt and Kerala Govt: 1 each i.e. 2.

4. For specific conditions, as asked in the question, it is submitted that the following terms and conditions may be considered.

Srl No.	Criteria	Applicat ion Provider	TV/Mobile/ Tablet Equipment manufacture r	OS provider	Broadcast er	Content provider and aggregator	Other tech/ solution providers
1	Renewal Period	10 years	10 years	10 years	10 years	10 years	10 years

2	Renewal fee	Rs. 5 lakh	Rs. 5 lakh	Rs. 5 lakh	Rs. 5 lakh	Rs. 5 lakh	Rs. 5 lakh
3	Application for renewal to be preferred	3 months prior to expiry of authorization	3 months prior to expiry of authorization	3 months prior to expiry of authorization	3 months prior to expiry of authorization	3 months prior to expiry of authorization	3 months prior to expiry of authorization

5. Other Terms and Conditions which can be considered in respect of the above-mentioned stakeholders are:

- i) The renewal of service authorisation shall be subject to the applicant fulfilling the eligibility conditions of respective service authorisation.
- ii) The Authorised Entity applying for renewal of authorisation shall not be found guilty of violation of the prescribed Rules/Regulations.
- iii) Equity Holding and Management Control: The same shall be as per clause 3, section, Part I of Annexure III of TRAI recommendation dated 21st February 2025.
 - a. Restriction on crossholding of equity shares/capital contribution between TV broadcasters and application providers provisioning ALTD services:
 - I. No single company/legal entity, either directly or through its associates or interconnected national and international undertakings, **shall have more than 20% equity holding** in ALTD Platform and broadcasters/advertisers/ advertising agencies and vice-versa.
 - II. No single company / legal entity, either directly or through its associates or interconnected national and international undertakings, **shall have more than 20% equity holding** in more than one ALTD Platform and vice versa.
 - III. The cross-holdings restriction will also be applicable in respect of individual promoters besides being applicable to legal entities.
 - IV. A promoter company / member of the Board of Directors of the ALTD Platform cannot have stakes in any broadcaster / advertiser / advertising agency either directly or through its associates or interconnected national and international undertakings and vice-versa.

- b. Restriction on crossholding of equity shares/capital contribution between TV broadcasters and application providers provisioning ALTD services:
- I. No single company/legal entity, either directly or through its associates or interconnected national and international undertakings, **shall have more than 20% equity holding** in ALTD Platform and broadcasters/advertisers/ advertising agencies and vice-versa.
 - II. No single company / legal entity, either directly or through its associates or interconnected national and international undertakings, **shall have more than 20% equity holding** in more than one ALTD Platform and vice versa.
 - III. The cross-holdings restriction will also be applicable in respect of individual promoters besides being applicable to legal entities.
 - IV. A promoter company / member of the Board of Directors of the ALTD Platform cannot have stakes in any broadcaster / advertiser / advertising agency either directly or through its associates or inter-connected national and international undertakings and vice-versa.
- iv) Transfer/Surrender of Service Authorisation:
- a. The Authorised Entity may surrender the authorisation by giving an advance notice of one month to the Central Government as well as to all concerned/affected parties including the listeners of the service to this effect. The Bank Guarantee shall be returned subject to adjustment of outstanding dues, if any.
 - b. The Authorised Entity shall not, without the prior approval of the Central Government, either directly or indirectly, assign or transfer the Service Authorisation in any manner whatsoever to a third party or enter into any agreement to sub-authorise and/or partnership relating to any subject matter of the Authorisation to any third party either in whole or in part i.e., no sub leasing/partnership/third party interest shall be created.
- v) Sharing of Infrastructure: Sharing of infrastructure shall be permitted if the application provider platform is same, otherwise the sharing of infrastructure shall be restricted.

Question No.5: What should be the specific terms and conditions for the authorised entities provisioning 'ALTD Services' in India, under the 'Television Channel Distribution Services' as recommended in Part-II of Annexure-III in 'Authorisation

Recommendations dated 21st February 2025'? Stakeholders are requested to provide their detailed comments on the following conditions:

- a. Reservation of operational channel capacity by Vertically Integrated Entity**
- b. Services (PS) offered by application providers provisioning ALTD services**
- c. Monitoring and Inspection of facilities**
- d. Supply of Information to Central Government/TRAI**
- e. Contravention of terms and conditions of authorisation**
- f. Any other terms and conditions**

Further, whether the mandatory sharing of Sports Broadcasting Signals with Prasar Bharati and the compulsory transmission of certain channels as mandated for DTH, HITS and IPTV services should be applied to the application providers provisioning 'ALTD Services'. Stakeholders are requested to provide their comments with detailed justification on all such obligations that should be made applicable on such entities.

AIDCF response:

1. Before proceeding to the detailed response, it is humbly submitted that while the response is being submitted by drawing reference from the 'Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025', it must not be interpreted to mean that any Framework for ALTD Services will be contingent upon or subject to the acceptance of the Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It is humbly submitted that the Framework for ALTD Services can be accepted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, independent of the status of acceptance of Authorisation Recommendations dated 21st February 2025.
2. Regarding **reservation of operational channel capacity by Vertically Integrated Entity**, it is submitted that not more than 15% of the operational channel capacity shall be reserved for the vertically integrated broadcaster(s) of the entities provisioning ALTD Services. The rest of the capacity is to be offered to the other broadcasters on a non-discriminatory basis.
3. Regarding **Services (PS) offered by application providers provisioning ALTD services**, it is submitted that not more than 5% of the operational channel capacity shall be reserved for the Platform Services (PS) of the entities provisioning ALTD Services.
4. Regarding **Monitoring and Inspection of facilities** it is submitted that:
 - i) ALTD Service Provider shall provide necessary facility for continuous monitoring of the ALTD network at its own cost. The ALTD Service Provider

shall ensure preservation and retention of all content including, Platform Service, programmes and advertisements made available to their subscribers for a period of 90 days; ensure its security and that it is not tampered with during such period.

- ii) The ALTD Service Provider shall be required to produce the same to the Government or its authorised representative, as and when required. Further, the Central Government or its authorised representative may inspect the ALTD service facilities. Such inspection shall ordinarily be carried out after reasonable notice except in circumstances, where giving such a notice will defeat the very purpose of the inspection and in such cases, it may be carried out without prior intimation.

5. Regarding supply of **Information to Central Government/TRAI**, it is submitted that:

- i) The ALTD Service Provider shall provide information with respect to its service, equipment, network, systems, technical parameters, and any other relevant details as required by the Central Government/TRAI or their authorised representative from time to time in the specified format.
- ii) The ALTD Service Provider shall provide any information required by the Central Government or its authorised representative regarding Programme Content and Quality, in the specified format.

6. Regarding **Contravention of terms and conditions of authorisation** it is submitted that any contravention shall be dealt with under the relevant rules/regulation which shall be framed by TRAI/MIB.

7. Regarding **Mandatory Provision of Signals with Prasar Bharati**, it is submitted that sharing of signals with Prasar Bharati must not be made a mandatory requirement.

Question No.6: What type of assurance or certification mechanism should be prescribed for television manufacturers and operating system providers to ensure that applications provisioning ALTD services, (whether pre-integrated with television sets or made available for download through application stores or web platforms) are duly authorised by MIB.

AIDCF response:

1. It is proposed that the any person offering an Application/Web based Content Distribution Service must be obligated to take Service Authorization from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the said Application/ Website

before it can be released for public use. Moreover, these operating system/application should only distribute the channels registered by MIB.

Television:

2. As far as the obligations qua the operating system providers is concerned, it must be made a mandatory condition that the Operating System of the Smart TV or Connected TV must be coded in a manner that only the applications which have a valid license from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting can be downloaded through the said Operating System. The loading/installation of the ALTD Application on the Smart TV or Connected TV must be made subject to the condition that Application Provider must first share a copy of his licence to the Television manufacturer.
3. Once this condition is mandated, the liability of the television manufacturer can be limited to verification and issuing a certification that all applications installed on the device hold a valid licence from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Television Manufacturer must be asked to certify that the Television set being sold including the Connected TV Sets and Smart TV Sets contains an operating system that will only allow applications having valid licences from MIB to be downloaded in the device and the applications are providing only the registered channels from MIB.

Mobiles and Tablets:

4. It is proposed that conditions imposed on the operating system providers for mobile phones and tablets as well as the manufacturers of mobile phones and tablets must be *pari materia* with the conditions imposed on the Television Manufacturers and Operating System Providers. This will ensure that only applications licensed from the MIB are allowed to be downloaded and accessed by the public through internet enabled/connected devices.

Question No.7: What kind of assurance mechanisms should be instituted to ensure that the application providers authorised for provisioning ALTD services carry only those channels which are authorised/permited by MIB for distribution in India. What kind of penalty/disincentive/deterrent be instituted for non-compliance? Provide your comments with justification.

AIDCF response

1. It is submitted that the following assurance mechanisms should be instituted to ensure that ALTD services carry only those channels which are authorised/permited by MIB for distribution in India:

- i) Only licenced channels will be allowed to be transmitted/streamed within the territory of India through the ALTD platforms.
- ii) The channels must be mandated to provide copies of their licences to the ALTD Platforms to ensure transparency.
- iii) Only those channels which have the licence to be transmitted/streamed will be given the permission to be transmitted over the platform.
- iv) All application providers must be directed to receive permission for transmission from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for streaming licensed channels on their platform.
- v) All application providers must be directed to display/make available a list of MIB licenced channels permitted to be streamed/distributed through their platforms.
- vi) If any Application Provider is found to carry channels other than the licenced channels, then, it would amount to violation of the Downlinking permission/permission to transmit.
 - a) Warning
 - b) Prohibition of broadcast up to 30 days.
 - c) Suspension/cancellation/revocation of registration of Application provider for continued default
 - d) Forfeiture of Security Deposit.
 - e) Order directing removal of application from all devices.
 - f) Refund of all fee collected from users during the period of unauthorized use.
 - g) Financial disincentive of Rs. 10 lakhs per day and after 30 days cancellation of registration.

Question No.8: Whether there is a need to prescribe any specific terms and conditions for value-added services offered by ALTD service providers? If yes, what should be the terms and conditions? Stakeholders are requested to provide their detailed comments with justification.

AIDCF response

1. It is humbly submitted that Application/Web based Content Distribution Platforms are offering various services to make their platforms lucrative for viewers. These services are not defined but are playing a major role in expansion of the subscriber base for these Application/Web-based Content Distribution Platforms.

2. Platform Service as a Pay Service may be considered as a legitimate Value-Added Service. However, if any value-added service is linked to financial incentives/rewards/transfers, the same should be prohibited on ALTD platforms, as many a times, it tantamount to fraudulent activities like money laundering, gambling and others, which has also been observed in the gaming industry.

Question No.9: Whether the broadcasters/content owners providing or intending to provide television channels on ALTD platforms operating in India be mandated to obtain authorisation either for:

- **Satellite-based Broadcasting and/or**
 - **Ground-based Broadcasting**
- along with its applicable terms and conditions, before entering into the agreements with authorised entities provisioning ALTD services to consumers? If yes, provide reasons with justifications.**

AIDCF response:

1. Yes, any broadcaster/content owner who is intending to provide television channels on ALTD platforms, should take authorization either for **Satellite-based Broadcasting and/or Ground-based Broadcasting**. In specific situation, wherein a single entity i.e. broadcaster/content provider is the one who is providing the content and also running the ALTD distribution platform, then they should abide to terms and conditions related to cross holding restriction provided in the authorization of ALTD distribution service. Moreover, if the same platform is providing channels directly to consumers than the same shall be registered as ALTD distributor platform at par with other DPO.
2. Furthermore, the channel (registered with MIB wither satellite or terrestrial) being made available must either be 'Pay' or 'FTA' across all platforms/mediums including DD Free dish, DTH, HITS, MSO, IPTV and ALTD.
3. **The condition prescribed in proviso to Regulation 3(2) of the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Eighth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2017 must be made applicable to the ALTD Platforms as well. The said proviso reads as under:**

"Provided also that a channel, which has been granted downlinking permission by the Central Government and is available without any subscription fee on the direct to home platform of the public service broadcaster, shall not be declared as pay channel for addressable distribution platforms."

The amendment should be revised as follows and tariff regulation in this regard to be amended as:

“Provided also that a channel, which has been granted downlinking permission by the Central Government and is available without any subscription fee on the direct to home platform of the public service broadcaster, or any other distribution platforms registered with MIB shall not be declared as pay channel for any distribution platforms.”

Question No. 10: In view of the availability of the pay television channels on ALTD platforms, what pricing methodology should be adopted for price parity of television channels across these platforms? Please provide detailed justification for your response.

AIDCF response

1. It is submitted that the pricing methodology must be in accordance with the following principles:
 - i) The Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of pay television channels should be uniform across all distribution platforms, including ALTD platforms. The mode of transmission should not be a basis for differential pricing. Such uniformity is essential to prevent price distortion and regulatory arbitrage across platforms.
 - ii) Execution of Reference Interconnection Offers (RIOs) between broadcasters and ALTD platforms should be mandated, to ensure transparency and non-discrimination.
 - iii) Both traditional distributors and ALTD platforms should be provided flexibility in packaging and offering channels, including the formation of bouquets. This would enable platforms to compete on service quality, user experience, and innovation, rather than on pricing distortions.
 - iv) Linear satellite television channels should not be permitted to be broadcast or streamed free of charge, including via digital or internet-based feeds, where such channels are otherwise designated as pay channels.
 - v) No broadcaster shall provide signals of pay channels to any ALTD platform without entering into a written interconnection agreement with such platform.
 - vi) Similarly, no ALTD platform shall distribute pay channels of any broadcaster without entering into a written interconnection agreement with such broadcaster.

- vii) It shall be mandatory for broadcasters and ALTD platforms to enter into written interconnection agreements on an a-la-carte basis for the distribution of pay channels, in accordance with applicable regulatory principles.
- viii) An ALTD platform seeking to obtain signals of television channels shall submit a formal written request in the application format prescribed by the broadcaster.
- ix) No ALTD platform shall carry or distribute any television channel in respect of which a request has been received from a broadcaster, unless a valid written interconnection agreement has been executed with such broadcaster.

Question No.11: What obligations are required to be specified for the authorised entities provisioning ALTD services, with respect to consumer protection and grievance redressal mechanism, considering the different modes of service access such as smart televisions, websites, mobile applications etc.? Please provide your comments with detailed justification.

AIDCF response:

1. The existing legal and regulatory framework provides multiple rights to the consumers. Before treading into greater details, it is essential to appreciate the existing rights and then proceed to formulate a set of rights that protect the persons consuming content through ALTDs. As far as Linear TV industry is concerned, the major stakeholder include the Broadcaster, Distribution Platform Operators, Local Cable Operators and the Consumers. TRAI has framed regulations which cover and protect all aspects of the relationship between the said stakeholders with the intent to ensure transparency, accountability, fair competition, thereby maximising consumer interest and protection.

I. The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Eighth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2017 protects the consumers by:

- i) Clearly distinguishing Pay Channels from Free to Air Channels. (The existing applications create a distinction but do not provide a clear guide/library/page to distinguish the content available free and the paid content
- ii) Prescribing Tariffs (including various kinds of fee), with a view to ensure that the services remain affordable for the consumers.
- iii) Laying down the circumstances where no fee can be levied.

- iv) Prescribing the criteria which could legitimately form the basis of difference in certain categories of fee, eg.: Network Capacity Fee.
- v) Prescribing the mode in which the channels/content will be bundled and the defining rights/duties of the stakeholders in respect of the same.
- vi) Mandating the execution of Interconnection Agreements between Distributors and Broadcasters declaring the retail price of individual channels as well as bundled services.
- vii) Mandating that the broadcaster shall submit the following information to the Regulator and also publish the same on its website:
 - a. Name, nature and language of channel
 - b. MRP of channel offered
 - c. List of bouquets/bundled services along with their names, components and maximum retail prices;
- viii) Mandating that a Broadcaster intending to do any of the following acts i.e.
 - a. Introduction or discontinuation of new channel
 - b. Introduction or discontinuation of any new bouquet of pay channels
- ix) Must intimate the Regulator as well as the Distributor regarding the following aspects atleast 30 days before effecting any change:
 - a. name, nature, language of the channel to be introduced or discontinued;
 - b. the date on which such channel is to be introduced or discontinued;
 - c. the maximum retail price, per month, of the pay channel;
- x) Mandating that a Distribution Platform Operator us bound to furnish the following information to the Regulator and also publish the same on its website:
 - a. list of all channels along with their respective name, nature, language available on its distribution platform;
 - b. distributor retail price, per month, of each pay channel available on its distribution platform;
 - c. list of all the bouquets of pay channels formed by broadcasters which are available on its distribution

- platform, along with their respective distributor retail price , per month, and names of constituent pay channels thereof;
- d. list of all the bouquets of pay channels formed by it which are available on its distribution platform, along with their respective distributor retail price, per month, and names of constituent pay channels thereof;
 - e. list of all the bouquets of free-to-air channels available on its distribution platform along with names of constituent free-to-air channels thereof;
 - f. region-wise network capacity fee, per month, payable by a subscriber for each additional TV connection beyond first TV connection in a multi-TV home.
 - g. list of all the long-term subscriptions offered by it, along with distributor retail price of pay channels, distributor retail price of bouquets of pay channels, duration of such subscriptions and discount offered in network capacity fee
 - h. list of all platform service channels along with their maximum retail price, available on its distribution platform
- xi) Mandating the designation of a compliance office to ensure compliance with the Tariff Order.
 - xii) Providing for the consequences of failure to comply with the provisions of the Tariff Order such as financial disincentive
 - xiii) Reserving the power to intervene to secure compliance of the Tariff Order, protecting the interests of the subscribers as well as service providers; promote and ensure orderly growth of the sector; facilitate competition and promote efficiency in the operation of services to facilitate growth in such services.

II. The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable), Services Standards of Quality of Service and Consumer Protection (Addressable Systems) Regulations 2017 protect the consumers by:

- i) Making the Regulations applicable to all broadcasting services throughout the territory of India.
- ii) Setting up a system for error-free distribution of broadcasting services to the subscribers.
- iii) Mandating that broadcasting services should be provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

- iv) Mandating the adoption of consumer-friendly methods such as website and telephonic call to customer care centre to handle the subscription related acts.
- v) Prescribing the manner in which channels shall be offered as well as the method of offering a new connection.
- vi) Mandating that subscribers must be able to view their subscription details and make changes therein only after authentication by one-time password.
- vii) Prescribing the mode of maintenance of services including aspects such as activation, modification, suspension, relocation. deactivation and specific provision qua price protection.
- viii) Prescribing modalities such as pre-paid and post-paid services as well as the components of the fee.
- ix) Prescribing the Customer Care and Complaint Redressal mechanism and addressing the subjects of
 - a. Time period for redressal of complaints
 - b. Setting up Customer Care Centre for consumers and handling of complaints by them.
 - c. Introduction of IVRS systems for complaint registration and redressal.
 - d. Complaints to nodal officers
 - e. Complaints to the TRAI
 - f. Maintenance of records of the Complaints
- x) Prescribing the mode of publicity of information and consumer awareness and emphasizing on initiatives such as:
 - a. Establishment of Website
 - b. Customer Care programming Service
 - c. Public Awareness Campaigns
 - d. Publicity of Information by Broadcasters
 - e. Prohibition of On-Screen Display
- xi) Mandating that each broadcaster shall maintain technical standards of signals as well as providing for audits to ensure that technical standards are met and maintained.

- xii) Providing for publication of 'Manual of Practice'
- xiii) Mandating that distributors shall ensuring compliance of quality of services and report the same to TRAI.
- xiv) Mandating that the distributors shall submit the following information to TRAI
 - a. installation and activation charges;
 - b. restoration charges payable by the subscriber for restoration of services, if such services have remained suspended continuously for a period not exceeding three months;
 - c. re-activation charges; payable by the subscriber for restoration of services, if such services have remained suspended continuously for a period exceeding three months;
 - d. visiting charges;
 - e. relocation charges;
 - f. respective maximum retail prices of the platform service channel:
- xv) Prescribing for appointment of a Compliance Officer as well as defining his obligations.
- xvi) Prescribing consequences of failure to comply with the regulations by broadcasters and distributors including the consequences of financial disincentives.
- xvii) Reserving the power of TRAI to intervene to secure compliance of the Regulation, protecting the interests of the subscribers as well as service providers; monitoring the performance of quality-of-service standards.
- xviii) Providing that the provisions of the regulations for consumer protection shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law in force, thereby widening the scope for the consumers to protect their interest.

III. Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017 protect the consumers by:

- i) Regulating the commercial and technical arrangements, among service providers for interconnection, for broadcasting services relating to television
- ii) Prohibiting exclusive contracts between broadcasters and distributors to maintain level playing field and ensure free competition thereby maximising consumer interest and choice.
- iii) Protects the distributors from unreasonable demands of the broadcasters, thereby ensuring that consumers are not burdened by unfair demands.
- iv) Mandating that the relationship between the Broadcaster and Distributor shall be contractual and shall be governed by a Reference Interconnection Offer, which document shall be available in public domain.
- v) Mandating the publication of Reference Interconnection Offers by Broadcasters (containing the technical and commercial terms and conditions relating to, including but not limited to, maximum retail price per month of pay channel, maximum retail price per month of bouquet of pay channels, discounts, if any, offered on the maximum retail price to distributors, distribution fee, manner of calculation of 'broadcaster's share of maximum retail price', genre of pay channel and other necessary conditions) to ensure transparency in the market.
- vi) Mandating the Service providers to ensure that the terms and conditions of all their interconnection agreements are in a written form.
- vii) Providing that any change in the distribution of channel to consumers shall be notified in advance and requested for/intimated in writing.
- viii) Mandating that the interconnection agreement between broadcasters and distributors shall have a defined territory of operation.
- ix) Mandating that the relationship between the Distributor of channels and the Local Cable Operators shall be contractual and shall be governed by a Reference Interconnection Offer.

- x) Provides for subscription Report and Audit.
- xi) Mandates that the Regulations shall be complied with by the broadcasters while changing the MRP and nature of channel.
- xii) Mandates that every Broadcaster and Distributor shall designate a compliance officer to ensure that the regulations are given effect to in a proper manner and accountability can be ensured.
- xiii) Reserves the powers of TRAI to intervene in order to protect the interest of the consumer or service provider or to promote and ensure orderly growth of the broadcasting and cable television sector or for monitoring and ensuring compliance of these regulations, by order or direction, from time to time.

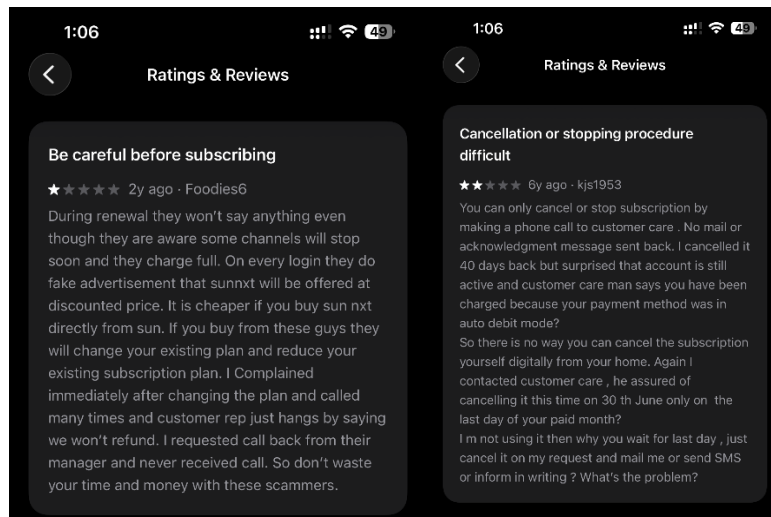
IV. The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Register of Interconnection Agreements and all such other matters Regulations, 2019, protect the interests of the consumers by:

- i) Mandating that Broadcasters and Distributors must report the details of the Reference Interconnection Offers and amendments thereto, to the TRAI.
 - ii) Providing for consequences for failure to provide the Reference Interconnection Offers and associated details including the penalty of imposition of financial disincentive.
 - iii) Creating a Register of Interconnection to keep a record of the agreements.
 - iv) Providing for appointment of a Compliance Officer to ensure that the regulations are complied with.
2. On one hand, we have the Linear Television where the relationship between broadcasters and DPOs is regulated so tightly that all major financial and technical aspects are brought in public domain and under the regulatory power of the TRAI. However, on the other hand, ALTD platforms are operating in complete disregard of the settled norms prescribed for protection of consumer interests.

3. It is submitted that the measures for consumer protection provided in the existing TRAI Regulations (mentioned above), must be provided for the consumers of ALTD Distribution platform/Services.
4. Other conditions which deserve the intervention of TRAI and MIB include the following:
 - i) **Audit of systems:** The systems deployed/used by the ALTD platforms must be subjected to an audit process similar to the process conducted for other distributors under Schedule X of the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulation, 2017.
 - ii) **Fee structure needs to be clearly defined and disclosed:** Different ALTD Platforms are charging different kinds of fee and there is no explanation available for apportionment of fee as well as the component for which it is being charged.
 - iii) **Pre-paid and post-paid options:** Consumers must be given options to avail pre-paid and post-paid services. Mandating the consumers to provide credit card details in advance as well as setting UPI Mandates for long periods are not in consumer interest and place ALTD platforms in a dominant position to use the User's financial information. This is crucial as cases have been reported where payments have been deducted without prior intimation or user permission
 - iv) **ALTD Platforms must be held responsible for misuse of User's financial data shared while availing their services:** At present, ALTD platforms mandate the sharing of user's financial data without guaranteeing that the same shall be maintained safely. The ALTD Platforms must be held accountable for storing User's financial data and must not be permitted to waive their responsibility towards the same. Appropriate safeguards must be placed.
 - v) **Information to Regulator and User:** The ALTD Platforms must be bound to inform the Regulator as well as the User regarding the following:
 - a. The maximum fee that could be chargeable by the ALTD platforms for the various services that they offer.
 - b. The maximum retail price, per month, of the pay channel;
 - c. Details of the different kinds of subscription offers they make to the customers.
 - d. Details of the name, language, nature of the content.
 - e. Information regarding Introduction/ discontinuation of any program/series/bundled services/value-added services

- f. The date on which such channel is to be introduced or discontinued;
- g. Information about any change to these terms must be informed atleast 30 days in advance to the Regulator and the User.

vi) **Cancellation process must be smooth, clear and hassle free:** Reviews of some consumer complaint from Yupp TV indicate that consumers have been facing issues qua cancellation and stopping procedures. ALTD platforms must be obligated to provide clear and hassle-free procedures for users willing to opt out of the services.



- vii) **Consumer Protection provisions should be in addition to and not in derogation of existing consumer protection laws:** The provisions of the regulations regarding consumer protection shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other consumer protection law in force, thereby widening the scope for the consumers to protect their interest.
- viii) **Public Awareness:** The Regulator must mandate that the terms and conditions of accessing an ALTD platform must be widely publicised. The user must be informed about the privacy policy and use of their data in simple terms, before they subscribe to any platform and allow them to make informed choices.
- ix) **Model/Standard contract must protect consumers and must not be biased in favour of ALTD Platforms:** Many ALTD Platforms have drafted the Terms of User that unilaterally favour the ALTD platforms Hence, to protect the consumers, the Regulator must release a model/standard contract/terms and conditions that would form the basis of delivery of services by ALTD Platforms to the consumers. No unilateral changes must be permitted.

- x) **Grievance redressal:** The ALTD Platform must publish on its website and all related platforms:
- a. The name of the designated Officer for Grievance Redressal and his contact details.
 - b. Mechanism by which a User can make a Complaint against violations by the ALTD Platform.
 - c. ALTD Platforms must be incorporated in the TRAI's grievance redressal system and all complaints which are not resolved as per Consumer satisfaction must be allowed to be raised with TRAI and be resolved within the timeline prescribed by TRAI.
- xi) **ALTD Platforms must not be allowed to evade Indian Judicial process and the Regulator's jurisdiction:**
- a. The terms and conditions of ALTD platforms provide only an email ID for consumers seeking resolution of disputes. Existing regulations for Broadcasting and Cable provide for setting up of call centres, IVRS. However, no such provision exists in respect of ALTD.
 - b. Platforms are providing only email addresses for raising complaints. The inherent risk in this mode is that ALTD platforms will choose to respond as per their own free will and may even choose not to respond. In cases where the entity is not Indian and has no office within the territory of India.
 - c. The consumers have no recourse to approach any Regulator and bring any illegality/irregularity to its notice. This leaves the consumers in a position where they have to compromise with their rights.
 - d. Some platforms that are based outside India have mentioned in their Terms that any disputes in relation to the Terms and Conditions and the services rendered therein will be subject to the jurisdiction of their respective countries. For example, the terms stated by DistroScale mention that the disputes will be subject to binding arbitration in the United States of America and will be administered by JAMS Mediation, Arbitration, and ADR Services based in USA, in accordance with the JAMS Streamlined Arbitration Rules and Procedures. **Such conditions are not just misleading but also an extremely unfair condition from the point of view of consumers who are effectively being left remedy less and being forced to act singly, outside the protection of any regulator.**

- e. Consumers must be saved from being misled into giving up their legal recourses available in India.
- xii) **Power of the Regulator to intervene:** TRAI should have the power to intervene in order to protect the interest of the consumer and promote and ensure orderly growth of the sector or for monitoring and ensuring compliance of the regulations, by order or direction, from time to time.

Question No.12: With the revised guidelines now including multiple viewing platforms in audience measurement, stakeholders are requested to furnish their comments on the right methodology for integrating ALTD service data into the television ratings framework, as well as the proposed timelines for implementation, supported by detailed justifications.

AIDCF response:

1. As far as the methodology for integrating ALTD Service data is concerned, the following aspects merit consideration:
 - a. 'Television Ratings Policy 2026' should treat all platforms (including ALTD Platform) at par, in a non-discriminatory manner.
 - b. No Platform/channel can be measured unless it complies with the mandatory pre-requisites of being licensed by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and having permitted to operate in India.
 - c. Since ALTD Services are available on large number of devices, and the same are clearly identifiable on an individual device basis. Therefore, the measurement should not be on sample basis but for the entire universe.

It is suggested that the timeline for implementation must be 1 years as the process of obtaining licences from Ministry of Information & Broadcasting as well as other clearances may take over one year.

Question No.13: Under the revised guidelines, television distribution platforms and/or OTT platforms may publish periodic viewership data of broadcasters/channels they carry on their platforms and/or on their websites, without prior registration. In this context, stakeholders are invited to provide their comments on how such an enablement can be aligned with the proposed authorisation framework for application providers provisioning ALTD services, along with any related considerations.

AIDCF response:

It is submitted that viewership data can only be published by ALTD platforms for duly licensed channels/services under the TV Ratings Policy 2026 dated 27.03.2026 and its subsequent amendment issued by MIB.

Question No.14: Considering the scenario wherein application providers provisioning ALTD services may adopt a hybrid business model offering free and/or paid services, stakeholder comments are invited on how such services should be subject to the regulatory framework, particularly with respect to tariff, interconnection and quality of service aspects. Please provide your comments with justification.

AIDCF response:

It is submitted that irrespective of the model, the ALTD platforms ought to be treated like distributors and laws in force for distribution platform operators must be considered as model laws that would apply to any new upcoming models of business, with relevant modifications, where needed.

Question No.15: Whether there are other issues (such as channel positioning on home screen, EPGs, revenue sharing, interconnection agreements including marketing and placement agreements, etc.), not specifically covered in this consultation paper, which may be relevant for consideration while formulating the regulatory framework for ALTD services? Stakeholders are also requested to share relevant international best practices or regulatory approaches, if any, along with appropriate justification.

AIDCF response:

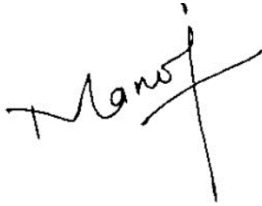
It is submitted that:

1. The aspects qua EPG must be dealt with in accordance with the principles enshrined in Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Standards of Quality of Service and Consumer Protection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017.
2. The aspects qua Interconnection Agreements must be dealt with in accordance with the principles enshrined in Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017.
3. The aspects qua Revenue Sharing must be dealt with in accordance with the principles enshrined in Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Eighth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2017.

4. Channel positioning on Home Screen and Marketing, Placement Agreements do not fall within the purview of Interconnection Agreements and do not warrant any intervention.
5. Appropriate instructions must be issued to TV Manufacturers to prevent IPTV piracy.

We hope that our request will merit your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,
For, **ALL INDIA DIGITAL CABLE FEDERATION**



Manoj P. Chhangani
Secretary General -AIDCF



Appendix:

1. Case Studies of some ALTD Platforms operating in India.
2. Details of channels being transmitted in some ALTD Platforms as of April 2026.

Annexures:

1. Copy of Part 3A of the United Kingdom's Communications Act, 2003 (as amended).
2. Copy of Ofcom's Report dated 16.12.2025 regarding 'Designation of Television Selection Services' submitted to Secretary of State.

APPENDIX- 1

Case Studies of some ALTD Platforms operating in India

Case Study No.1: FAMELACK

1. **Name:** Famelack (TV Garden)
2. **Nature:** Website operated by Famelack LLC
3. **Access Link:** <https://famelack.com/tv/in¹⁵>
4. **Documents provided in public domain:** FAQs and Privacy Policy
5. **Legal Status:** Limited Liability Company based in USA.
6. **Details of Subscription:** No subscription required; No advertisements displayed; No need to create any account
7. **Method of Operation and other known details:**
 - i. Goal: Claims that its goal is to connect the viewer with engaging content from around the world without the clutter of broken links and unnecessary friction. Every stream is actively maintained and regularly checked.
 - ii. Company offers content from different countries and classifies the countries as per the classification recognized by United Nations.
 - iii. Company's lineup of TV Channels is powered by the IPTV Community on GitHub. This public directory helps us bring free international streams directly to your browser.
 - iv. Open-source tools that claim to make the platform possible
 - Three.js: Drives the interactive 3D globe.
 - Video.js: Powers playback for live TV and radio across many formats.
 - Luxon: Handles local time calculations for countries worldwide.
 - v. Claims that it plays YouTube channels for news, music, and cultural programming, updated regularly so there is always something fresh to discover.
 - vi. Company does not host or upload any audio or video streams.
 - vii. Company links the consumer to publicly available streams and play them in the browser.
 - viii. Claims to use HTTPS to protect the user's connection, does own checks, use embedding requirements and remove links when necessary.
 - ix. Claims that it doesn't use third party tracking services.
 - x. Allows the channels to be stored locally in the browser
 - xi. Claims to use publicly available IPTV streams
 - xii. The source of TV Channels is the IPTV-org community on GitHub (available at: <https://github.com/iptv-org/iptv>)
 - xiii. HTTPS are used to encrypt and protect the connection and ensure privacy.

¹⁵ Link to access Indian Channels

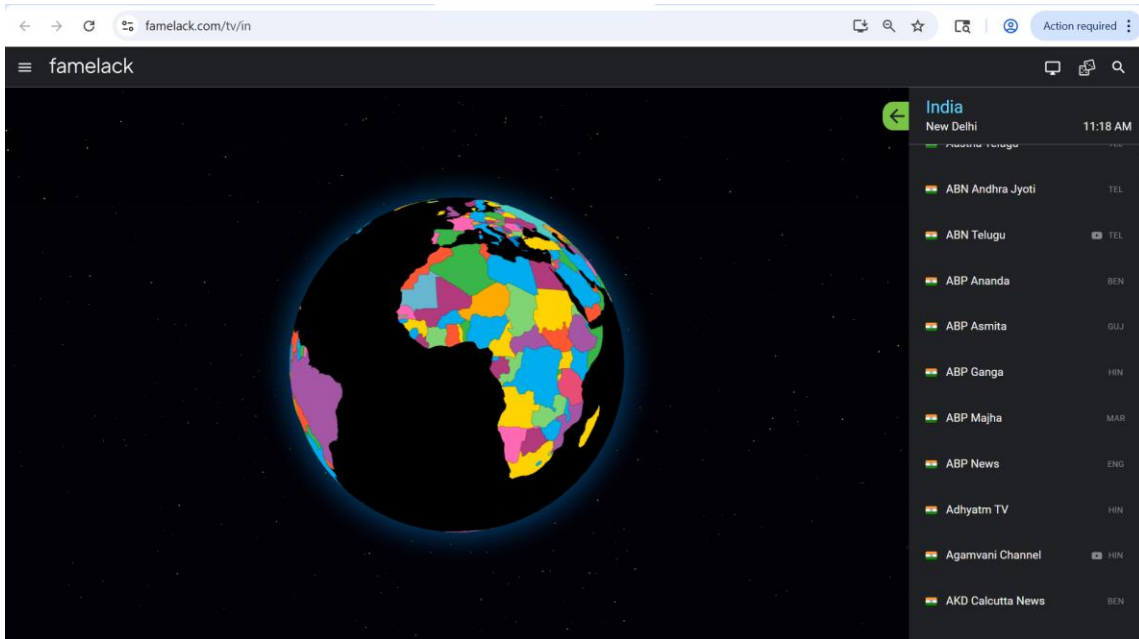
- xiv. The services are aligned with general common principles found in regulations such as GDPR and CCPA.
- xv. Dispute Resolution: Report the issue to <https://github.com/iptv-org/iptv>
- xvi. The website provides a disclaimer that Famelack provides access to publicly available video and audio streams but does not host, own, or control any content.
- xvii. Claims that since Famelack does not collect or process personal data, their service is designed to align with common principles found in GDPR and CCPA.

8. Mode of Dispute Resolution recognized

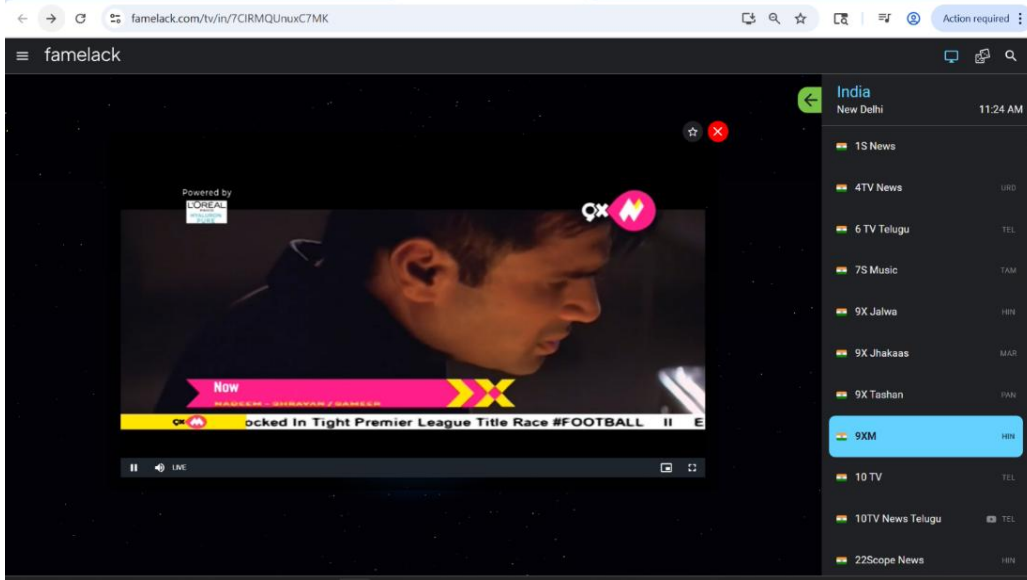
- a. In cases of copyright infringement, the website requires to contact dmca@famelack.com with a takedown request and assures that they will promptly review and take appropriate action.
- b. The website also claims that the Company complies with all valid DMCA takedown notices.
- c. The website suggests that if the link originates from the IPTV-org directory, the aggrieved person may also submit a request directly to [IPTV-org](https://iptv-org.com).
- d. The website provides a disclaimer that removing a link from Company does not remove the content from the web. If the content is infringing, it encourages the user to also contact the hosting provider directly.
- e. The website reaffirms that Company strives to link only to legitimate streams, but states that it cannot guarantee the copyright status of every link.
- f. The website also mentions that Company reserves the right to remove links at its sole discretion and without prior notice.
- g. User Support the website provides the email link as support@famelack.com for support and provides the link feedback@famelack.com for sharing feedback, ideas and suggestions.

9. Nature of Terms and Conditions

- a. The terms are not drafted in a way to bind the user and uses flexible phraseology which reads "By using the platform, User acknowledges and agree to these terms."
- b. The terms are only for acknowledgement and agreement and not really binding in nature.



Famelack website page showing Indian channels on the right-side menu



Screen shot showing the telecast of Indian Linear Television Channel 9XM

Case Study No. 2: DISTRO TV

1. **Name of Platform: Distro TV**
2. **Nature:** Website (<https://www.distro.tv/>) and mobile application
3. **Documents provided in public domain:** Terms of Use and Privacy Policy
4. **Legal Status:** Company DistroScale, Inc. incorporated in USA, based in San Mateo, California
5. **Dispute Resolution Mechanism:** Binding Arbitration on Individual basis at JAMS Mediation, Arbitration, and ADR Services ("JAMS") in accordance with their Rules.
6. **General Terms:** Changes will be made from time to time and only material changes will be notified to User.

7. **Content subjectivity**
 - a. DistroScale claims to offer Services to users in the United States.
 - b. DistroScale not responsible for content that User finds offensive, indecent, explicit or objectionable.
 - c. DistroScale has the sole discretion to terminate or restrict the user account or use of the Services at any time, without notice or liability.
8. **Billing**
 - a. Some services and content may be free.
 - b. Mode of payment- Credit Card
 - c. DistroScale will not be liable to the user for any claims arising out of or related to his/her purchase or use of third-party products or services.
9. **Collection and Use of Personal Information**
 - a. The Privacy Policy is incorporated by reference and made part of the Terms.
 - b. User's agreement to the terms amounts to agreement of the Privacy Policy also.
10. **Linked destinations and advertising**
 - a. DistroScale may link its website to other third parties websites or destinations.

 - b. However, it is not responsible for any content or other materials hosted and served from the same. DistroScale cannot be held liable for any damages in relation to a third-party advertisement of products or services.
11. **Disclaimer of Warranties, Limitation of Liability, And Indemnity.**
 - a. The content is provided on 'as is' basis and without warranties of any kind, either express or implied.

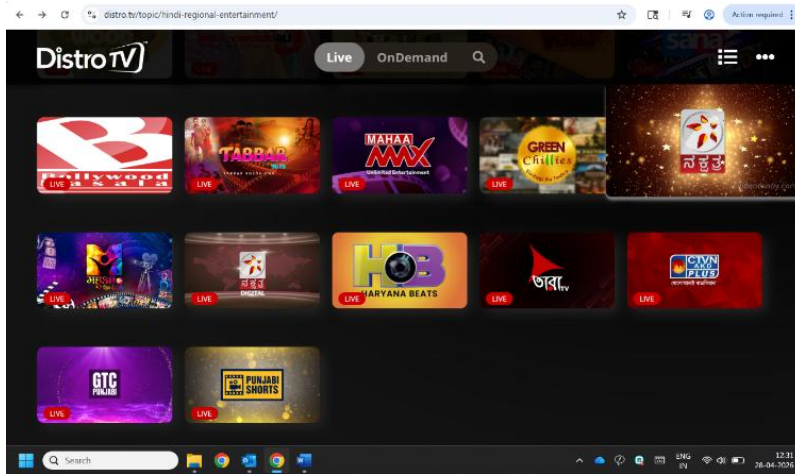
 - b. DistroScale does not guarantee that services will be uninterrupted, free of viruses and other harmful components, accurate, error free, or reliable or regarding their title, merchantability, completeness, availability, security, compatibility,

noninfringement, interruption or cessation of the services, any viruses or malicious code transmitted to or through the service by any third party.

- c. DistroScale or its officials/ affiliates shall not be liable for any indirect, punitive, incidental, special, consequential, or other damages, including loss of profits, arising out of or in any way related to the use of the services.
- d. User shall indemnify and hold DistroScale harmless for all liabilities, claims, damages, expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs), and other losses arising out of or in any way related to the acts and omissions of the User.
- e. Notice of copyright infringement should be emailed to DistroScale copyright agent at legal@distroscale.com and can be sent by post.

12. Privacy Policy: Policy will be modified from time to time. Only material changes will be intimated to User.

- a. Purpose behind collecting User Information: Serving Content and Advertisements; Reporting and Performance Analytics; Frequency Capping; Location-Based Serving; Fraud Detection and Prevention and Security; Service Usage and Support etc.
- b. Information collected by Distro includes:
 - i) Browser and Device information: User-agent, carrier name, time zone, network connection type, anonymized IP address, general location inferred from IP address, information about our Publisher Client's apps and versions currently active on a device.
 - ii) Information about an end user's activities like information about the domain, URLs, keywords, session start/stop time, geolocation, click data and types of advertisements viewed.
 - iii) Information about content or advertisements served, viewed, or clicked on, such as the type of content or advertisement, where the content or advertisement was served, whether the end user clicked on it, the number of times an end user has seen the content or advertisement, and whether the user visited the Media Buyer's website or relevant app store and/or purchased or installed the product or service advertised.
 - iv) Information believed to be necessary or appropriate by DistroScale.



Screenshot showing few live channels available on Distro TV including the popular linear TV channel Tabbar Hits

Case Study No. 3: Yupp TV

1. **Name of Platform and other services:** Yupp TV, Yupp Flix, Freedocase, Yupp TV OTT Platform, Yupp TV Analytics.
2. **Nature:** Website (<https://www.yupptv.com/fast-tv>) and Mobile Application.
3. **Documents provided in public domain:** Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy
4. **Legal Status:** Terms and Conditions state that the content is being provided by Yupp TV India Pvt. Ltd/Yupp TV USA.
5. **Dispute Resolution Mechanism:** This Agreement is governed by the laws of the United States and the federal state of Georgia. It is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts at Georgia and User agrees to the said exclusive jurisdiction.
6. **Definitions:**
 - a. YuppTV shall mean YuppTV USA Inc./ YuppTV India Private Limited.
 - b. User shall mean and include all the existing and future user who avails the Services of YuppTV.
 - c. Content provider means and includes content owners, channel owners and any other licensors of content on the Site.
 - d. Types of Fee: Fees shall mean different kinds of fee including subscription fees, Account Activation Fees, Device Activation Fees, Service fee, Restart fee, Restoral fee, Late fee including but not limited to any other charges, fees and subscription rents.
 - e. Partner Apps shall mean SonyLiv.
7. **Availability of content:** Some content is available for free while some services would be available on payment of a charge.
 - a. YuppTV shall not be liable to the User or any third party for loss or misuse of the information relating to the Account or the password or unauthorized use of the Account.
 - b. The User is responsible for any material purchased and received by and YuppTV shall not be liable in the event of any loss, destruction, or damage of any such material
8. **Subscription**
 - a. YuppTV will not refund any unutilized price for any part of the Services.
 - b. User will have to make payment for services even in cases of termination of subscription.
 - c. If a User takes up a promotional benefit and subsequently terminates such purchase plan before the expiry of the plan, he shall be charged for the promotional benefit received by him.
 - d. Cancellations of quarterly, half-yearly and yearly packages is impermissible as they are available at discounted prices.

- e. All Quarterly, Yearly and Half-yearly packages would be automatically renewed unless intent to cancel is conveyed 7 days prior to renewal.
- f. A non-refundable Annual **Account Activation Fee** of approx. \$10, will be chargeable.
- g. All Half-Yearly and Yearly package subscribers will be charged a one-time, non-refundable fee of approximately \$10 as **Device Activation Fee**. For activating each device thereafter, fee of approximately \$20 and an additional \$2.99 per month for the remaining term of his/her subscription will be payable. (rates vary country wise)
- h. For all monthly packages, customer will be charged a **service fee** of approximately \$2.99 per month to enable access on up to one television. (rates vary country wise)
- i. To watch Services simultaneously on more than one television, customers will be charged an additional approximately \$2.99, for activating each device thereafter.
- j. If a customer cancels the package and comes back, then the customer must pay the non-refundable Device Activation Fee again.

9. Payment: Payments to be made through credit card and Yupp may charge any Fees or purchases or other charges and for any additional amounts as may have accrued.

10. Transmission

- a. YuppTV will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the Content reaches the User. However, it shall not be responsible for interruptions due to storm, fire, casualty, unanticipated work stoppage, power outage, **satellite failure**, etc.
- a. Yupp TV is not responsible for offensive, indecent, or objectionable content.
- b. Content, products and services may be made available via third parties by Yupp. However, it shall not be responsible or liable for the same.
- c. YuppTV does not guarantee, represent, or warrant that the use of the Services will be uninterrupted or error-free, free from loss, corruption, attack, viruses, interference, hacking, or other security intrusion and YuppTV disclaims any liability relating thereto.
- d. YuppTV may remove or suspend the Services for indefinite periods of time, or cancel or terminate the Services at any time, with or without notice to the User.
- e. Due to Content Providers discretion, YuppTV can add / remove/ replace any existing channel or (s) that are part of the package, with some other channel at any point of time.

11. Liability: YuppTV, its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, agents, contractors, or licensors shall not be liable for any damages (direct, indirect, incidental, punitive, special, or consequential) arising from the User's use of any of the Services.

12. Waiver and Indemnity

- a. User will indemnify YuppTV and its officials in case of any loss.
- b. User shall not sue or recover any damages from YuppTV, its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, agents, contractors, and licensors.
- c. This waiver and indemnity provision shall apply to all violations described in or contemplated by this agreement.

13. Termination

- a. If User Services are cancelled or disconnected for any reason, User still must pay all outstanding balances accrued, including without limitation, any applicable Fees.
- b. Charges for Services, once charged to User account, are non-refundable, and no refunds or credits will be provided in connection with the cancellation of Services.
- c. Without limitation to the foregoing, YuppTV will not issue refunds or credits for partially used services and/or periods.

14. Modifications: YuppTV reserves the unilateral right to, at any time, update, revise, supplement, and otherwise modify this Agreement and to impose new or additional rules, policies, terms, or conditions on the use of the Services.

15. Grievance Officer:A User from India may contact the Grievance Officer Roop Kumar Reddy at roop@yupptv.com.

16. Limitation of Liability

- a. Yupp TV not liable for any interruptions or delay
- b. Not liable to any alterations in equipment
- c. Yupp TV is not making any warranties
- d. Yupp TV may contain links to other platforms of third parties but is not responsible for the privacy practices of those platform.

17. Privacy Policy:

a. Personal Information: Meaning:

- i. Personal information means information that identifies the person. Eg: name, postal address, email address, and mobile number indicating to that particular person and includes anonymous information is directly or indirectly associated with personal information.

- ii. Information provided to Yupp TV through third party platforms will be subject to the privacy policy of those respective platforms and not the present policy.
- b. **Information collected by Yupp TV**
 - i. Name, Mobile No., Email ID, Country, Billing Address, Shipping Address of User.
 - ii. Billing information related to debit cards, credit cards and net-banking provided to third party service providers, language preferences, type of content, watch history, search queries etc., interactions with email, customer care and messaging platform, Geo-location information like IP addresses, Device information like device id, device model etc. and other unique identifiers, Cookies, Age, messages posted on social media etc.
 - iii. Yupp TV does not store any billing information and User visits such payment gateways he/she at his own risk.
- c. **Purpose for sharing User's information:** For administration and troubleshooting; To provide subscribers with features and functionalities; For providing SMS and E-mail related services (newsletters/ promotions etc.); Non-personally identifiable information may be shared publicly to show trends about the general use of the services; For advertising and measurement purposes.
- d. **Data Retention and Erasure:** Yupp TV may retain some of User's personal information as necessary for their legitimate business interests and safety. Users can ask for erasure of data.**Contact Information**
For questions/comments/queries/complaints address mail to privacy@yupptv.com/. Indian Residents can contact Grievance Officer, Mr. Roop Kumar Reddy, at roop@yupptv.com and he will respond within 1 month.

APPENDIX- 2

Details of Channels being transmitted on some ALTD Platforms as on April 2026¹⁶

Distro TV

Total Channels: 175

Registered Channels: 28 [Pay- 0 and FTA- 28]

Non- Registered Channels: 147

TABLE NO.1

LIST OF CHANNELS ON DISTRO TV AS ON APRIL 2026			
S. No.	Name of Channel	Registered/Not Registered/DD	Pay/FTA/DD
1	35MM	Not Registered	Not applicable
2	4ACETV	Not Registered	Not applicable
3	4ACETV CLASSIC HITS	Not Registered	Not applicable
4	4K TRAVEL TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
5	Aaj Ki Khabar	Not Registered	Not applicable
6	ABN Andhra Jyothi	Registered	FTA
7	ACI On The Go	Not Registered	Not applicable
8	Africanews	Not Registered	Not applicable
9	Afriwood Blockbuster	Not Registered	Not applicable
10	AMusic Channel	Not Registered	Not applicable
11	Anand TV	Registered	FTA
12	Ann Channel	Not Registered	Not applicable
13	Atmadarshan TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
14	a-z Best Classic TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
15	a-z Classic Flix	Not Registered	Not applicable

¹⁶ Link for checking MIB license for each channel, accessible at new.broadcastseva.gov.in/digigov-portal-web-app/webHP?requestType=ApplicationRH&actionVal=userInformationSystem&screenId=2 ; List of FTA published by TRAI as on 31.03.2026, accessible at <https://www.traigov.in/sites/default/files/2026-04/List%20of%20FTA%20channels%20%28Other%20than%20pay%20channel%20reported%20to%20TRAI%20by%20broadcasters%29%20as%20on%2031.03.2026.pdf> ; List of Pay channels and their prices as on 31.03.2026 https://www.traigov.in/sites/default/files/2026-04/MRP%20of%20Pay%20Channels%20as%20on%20%2831.03.2026%29_0.pdf

16	a-z Western Grit	Not Registered	Not applicable
17	Balle Balle	Registered	FTA
18	Bharat 24	Registered	FTA
19	Big TV	Registered	FTA
20	Bollywood Masala	Not Registered	Not applicable
21	Box Cinema	Not Registered	Not applicable
22	Box Gamers	Not Registered	Not applicable
23	Cartoon Classics	Not Registered	Not applicable
24	Cinema Hausa	Not Registered	Not applicable
25	Cinema Yoruba	Not Registered	Not applicable
26	CJC Television Network	Not Registered	Not applicable
27	Colorized.TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
28	Comedy Classics	Not Registered	Not applicable
29	Comercio TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
30	Cooking Panda	Not Registered	Not applicable
31	CraftsyTV	Not Registered	Not applicable
32	crema.tv	Not Registered	Not applicable
33	Crime & Evidence	Not Registered	Not applicable
34	DA News Plus	Registered	FTA
35	Daystar Español	Not Registered	Not applicable
36	Daystar TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
37	DeFiance Media	Not Registered	Not applicable
38	Drone TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
39	Elevation Church Network	Not Registered	Not applicable
40	ENCORE+	Not Registered	Not applicable
41	Euronews	Registered	FTA
42	Euronews Español	Not Registered	Not applicable
43	FEVA MUSIC	Not Registered	Not applicable
44	FEVA TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
45	Fitness Rewind	Not Registered	Not applicable
46	FloRacing 24/7	Not Registered	Not applicable
47	FUEL TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
48	Garv Punjab Gurbani	Not Registered	Not applicable
49	Ghost Dimension	Not Registered	Not applicable
50	Gujarat First	Registered	FTA
51	Gusto TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
52	Hare Krsna	Registered	FTA

53	Haryana Beat	Not Registered	Not applicable
54	Hip Hop TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
55	HITS MEXICANOS	Not Registered	Not applicable
56	In Touch+	Not Registered	Not applicable
57	India Daily 24x7	Registered	FTA
58	Indian News	Not Registered	Not applicable
59	IndieBox	Not Registered	Not applicable
60	Janataa TV Kannada	Not Registered	Not applicable
61	Kalooopy	Not Registered	Not applicable
62	Kalyan TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
63	Kartavya TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
64	Kolkata TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
65	KOZOOM TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
66	KTV Bangla	Registered	FTA
67	Lakshya TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
68	Living India News	Registered	FTA
69	Mahaa Max	Registered	FTA
70	Mahaa News	Registered	FTA
71	Mahua Khabar	Not Registered	Not applicable
72	Mahua Play	Not Registered	Not applicable
73	Mediacorp Entertainment - English	Not Registered	Not applicable
74	Mediacorp Entertainment - Tamil	Not Registered	Not applicable
75	Mi Miedo Canal	Not Registered	Not applicable
76	Mi Raza Canal	Not Registered	Not applicable
77	Mi Raza Canal Plus	Not Registered	Not applicable
78	MomCave	Not Registered	Not applicable
79	Munsif TV	Registered	FTA
80	Nakshatra Digital TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
81	News Malayalam 24x7	Registered	FTA
82	News Marathi 24x7	Not Registered	Not applicable
83	News Tamil 24x7	Registered	FTA
84	Nigbati TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
85	NOMADslow TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
86	Novo Comedy	Not Registered	Not applicable
87	OAN Plus	Not Registered	Not applicable

88	Old West TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
89	OurVinyl	Not Registered	Not applicable
90	Outdoor Channel	Not Registered	Not applicable
91	Outside	Not Registered	Not applicable
92	P18 News	Not Registered	Not applicable
93	POWERtube TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
94	Prameya News7	Registered	FTA
95	Pratham Khabar 24x7	Not Registered	Not applicable
96	Prime Asia TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
97	Punjabi Hits	Not Registered	Not applicable
98	Reuters 60	Not Registered	Not applicable
99	Revry	Not Registered	Not applicable
100	Revry Her	Not Registered	Not applicable
101	Right Now Tv	Not Registered	Not applicable
102	Rockola Television	Not Registered	Not applicable
103	Rongeen TV	Registered	FTA
104	Rozana Spokesman	Registered	FTA
105	Saga Music	Not Registered	Not applicable
106	Sakshi TV	Registered	FTA
107	Sana TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
108	Sandesh News	Registered	FTA
109	Schwab Network	Not Registered	Not applicable
110	Skull Bound TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
111	SKWAD	Not Registered	Not applicable
112	Sports Connect(Discontinued and recontinued	Not Registered	Not applicable
113	Sports First TV Discontinued and recontinued	Not Registered	Not applicable
114	SportsTVPlus	Not Registered	Not applicable
115	Sudarshan News	Registered	FTA
116	Sundrani TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
117	Swar Shree	Not Registered	Not applicable
118	Tabbar Hits	Registered	FTA
119	Tara TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
120	The Holiday TV Channel	Not Registered	Not applicable

121	The Unmute	Not Registered	Not applicable
122	TidPix Authentically African discontinued and recontinued	Not Registered	Not applicable
123	Top News Marathi	Not Registered	Not applicable
124	TRACE Brazuca	Not Registered	Not applicable
125	TRACE Latina	Not Registered	Not applicable
126	Trace UK	Not Registered	Not applicable
127	TRACE Urban	Not Registered	Not applicable
128	True African	Not Registered	Not applicable
129	True History	Not Registered	Not applicable
130	UnchainedTV	Not Registered	Not applicable
131	Urban Action Channel	Not Registered	Not applicable
132	Vande Bharat News	Not Registered	Not applicable
133	Viajar TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
134	WFN: World Fishing Network	Not Registered	Not applicable
135	Wild TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
136	World Poker Tour	Not Registered	Not applicable
137	World Punjabi TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
138	YRF Music	Not Registered	Not applicable
139	Thalaa TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
140	Tolly TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
141	Absinthe TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
142	America's Boating Channel	Not Registered	Not applicable
143	The Ring TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
144	Test MY Ride	Not Registered	Not applicable
145	Chrono TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
146	Drive+ Speed	Not Registered	Not applicable
147	Fight TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
148	Horror TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
149	Bollywood TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
150	Bollywood 4U	Not Registered	Not applicable
151	The Homestyle Channel	Not Registered	Not applicable
152	Hunt Fish TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
153	Sport Fishing TV	Not Registered	Not applicable

154	Cuisine Culture	Not Registered	Not applicable
155	Trufa	Not Registered	Not applicable
156	Wai Lana	Not Registered	Not applicable
157	Carbon TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
158	Golf Network	Not Registered	Not applicable
159	Foosball TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
160	Amarujala	Not Registered	Not applicable
161	Bharat Express	Registered	FTA
162	CN News	Not Registered	Not applicable
163	Argus News	Registered	FTA
164	Negotios	Not Registered	Not applicable
165	Green Chillies TV- Zindagi ka Tadka	Not Registered	Not applicable
166	CTVN AKD Plus	Registered	FTA
167	GTC Punjabi	Registered	FTA
168	Punjabi Shorts	Not Registered	Not applicable
169	DJ Central TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
170	Spot on News	Not Registered	Not applicable
171	Cowboy + Sports	Not Registered	Not applicable
172	Rock Solid Wrestling TV	Not Registered	Not applicable
173	RVTV	Not Registered	Not applicable
174	OnTV4U	Not Registered	Not applicable
175	CG Central	Not Registered	Not applicable

Yupp TV

ALL INDIA DIGITAL CABLE FEDERATION

CIN: U74140DL2014NPL268020

236, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase -III, New Delhi - 110 020

www.aidcf.com

Yupp TV
 Total Channels: 139
 Registered Channels: 50 [Pay- 6 and FTA- 44]
 Non- Registered Channels: 88
 DD: 1

TABLE NO.2

LIST OF CHANNELS ON YUPP TV AS ON APRIL 2026			
S.No.	Channel Name	Registered/Not Registered/DD	Pay/FTA/DD
1	A1TV	Not registered	Not applicable
2	Aadinath TV	Registered	FTA
3	Aajtak	Registered	FTA
4	ABP News	Registered	FTA
5	Absinthe TV	Not registered	Not applicable
6	ACE TV	Not registered	Not applicable
7	Adventure Sports TV	Not registered	Not applicable
8	AMERICAS BOATING CHANNEL	Not registered	Not applicable
9	APN News	Not registered	Not applicable
10	Aryan TV National	Registered	FTA
11	Astroscience	Not registered	Not applicable
12	Awakening TV	Registered	FTA
13	AWE PLUS	Not registered	Not applicable
14	Balle Balle	Registered	FTA
15	BANG BANG TV	Not registered	Not applicable
16	Bansal News	Registered	FTA
17	BEST ACTION TV	Not registered	Not applicable
18	Best Drama TV	Not registered	Not applicable
19	Best Thriller TV	Not registered	Not applicable
20	Bharat 24	Registered	FTA
21	Bharat Samachar	Registered	FTA
22	BOLLYWOOD 4U	Not registered	Not applicable
23	Bollywood Masala	Not registered	Not applicable
24	Brahma Kumaris	Not registered	Not applicable
25	BRAT TV	Not registered	Not applicable
26	CARTOON TV CLASSICS	Not registered	Not applicable

27	CHRONO TV	Not registered	Not applicable
28	COLOUR BLIND	Not registered	Not applicable
29	COMEDY TADKA	Not registered	Not applicable
30	COWBOY MOVIE CHANNEL	Not registered	Not applicable
31	Cricket Gold	Not registered	Not applicable
32	CVR English News	Registered	FTA (Correct name- CVR News English)
33	DANGER VISION TV	Not registered	Not applicable
34	DD INDIA	DD	DD
35	DEFIANCE MEDIA	Not registered	Not applicable
36	Disha TV	Registered	FTA
37	Divya Bhajan	Not registered	Not applicable
38	Divya TV	Registered	FTA
39	DIY ART	Not registered	Not applicable
40	DRIVE IN MOVIE CHANNEL	Not registered	Not applicable
41	Drive+ Speed	Not registered	Not applicable
42	EDGY TV	Not registered	Not applicable
43	EDGY URBAN	Not registered	Not applicable
44	ENCORE	Not registered	Not applicable
45	ENGLISH TV	Not registered	Not applicable
46	ESCAPE TV	Not registered	Not applicable
47	FIGHT TV	Not registered	Not applicable
48	God TV	Not registered	Not applicable
49	Good News Today	Registered	FTA
50	Green Gold TV India	Not registered	Not applicable
51	H2O TV	Not registered	Not applicable
52	Hare Krishna TV	Registered	FTA (Correct name- Hare Krsna)
53	Haryanvi Hits	Not registered	Not applicable
54	HEARTFELT TV	Not registered	Not applicable
55	Hindi Khabar	Registered	FTA
56	Hornbill TV	Registered	FTA
57	HORROR TV	Not registered	Not applicable
58	Hosanna TV Hindi	Not registered	Not applicable
59	Hunt Fish TV	Not registered	Not applicable

60	India Today News	Registered	Pay (1.80) TV Today Network
61	India Voice	Registered	FTA
62	INH 24X7	Registered	FTA
63	in-sync Discontinued and Recontinued	Registered	FTA
64	ITSF	Not registered	Not applicable
65	Jan TV	Registered	FTA
66	Jantantra TV	Not registered	Not applicable
67	Jinvani Channel	Registered	FTA
68	JUPITER TV	Not registered	Not applicable
69	JUST FOR LAUGHS GAGS	Not registered	Not applicable
70	Kartoon Channel Worldwide	Not registered	Not applicable
71	Kashish News	Registered	FTA
72	Khabar Fast	Registered	FTA
73	Khabrain Abhi Tak	Registered	FTA
74	KIDDO	Not registered	Not applicable
75	KOZOOM	Not registered	Not applicable
76	Krishna Vani	Not registered	Not applicable
77	KUNG FU	Not registered	Not applicable
78	LATINO CLASSIC CHANNEL	Not registered	Not applicable
79	Lingua TV	Not registered	Not applicable
80	Live Times	Registered	FTA
81	LOL TV	Not registered	Not applicable
82	LOVE 2 HATE TV	Not registered	Not applicable
83	LUXURY DREAMS TV	Not registered	Not applicable
84	MAMA BENZ TV	Not registered	Not applicable
85	Mangalmay TV	Not registered	Not applicable
86	MERCURY	Not registered	Not applicable
87	MMA TV	Not registered	Not applicable
88	MUNDO SERIES	Not registered	Not applicable
89	Nautical Channel	Not registered	Not applicable
90	Naxatra News Hindi	Not registered	Not applicable
91	NDTV 24x7	Registered	Pay (3.50) New Delhi Television Limited

92	NDTV GoodTimes	Registered	Pay (1.50) Lifestyle and Media roadcasting Limited
93	NDTV INDIA	Registered	FTA
94	NDTV MP (now NDTV MP CG)	Registered	FTA
95	NDTV Profit	Registered	Pay (1.50) New Delhi Television Limited
96	NDTV Rajasthan	Registered	FTA
97	Network 10	Registered	FTA
98	News 11 Bharat	Registered	FTA
99	News Nation	Registered	FTA
100	News9Live	Not registered	Not applicable
101	NITRO TV	Not registered	Not applicable
102	OAN PLUS	Not registered	Not applicable
103	OUTER VISION TV	Not registered	Not applicable
104	Peace of Mind	Registered	FTA
105	PickleBall Now	Not registered	Not applicable
106	Pocket Films	Not registered	Not applicable
107	Republic Bharat	Registered	FTA
108	Republic TV	Registered	FTA
109	Santwani	Registered	FTA
110	SCIFI WORLD	Not registered	Not applicable
111	Sharnam TV	Registered	FTA
112	Songdew	Not registered	Not applicable
113	SPACE SERIES	Not registered	Not applicable
114	SPORT FISHING TV	Not registered	Not applicable
115	Subharti TV	Registered	FTA
116	Sudarshan News	Registered	FTA
117	Swaraj Express SMBC	Registered	FTA
118	TENSIONS TV	Not registered	Not applicable
119	THE CHUKKER CHANNEL	Not registered	Not applicable
120	THE EXPLORERS	Not registered	Not applicable
121	Total TV	Registered	FTA
122	TRUFA	Not registered	Not applicable
123	Turito IIT JEE	Not registered	Not applicable

124	Turito NEET Discontinued and recontinued	Not registered	Not applicable
125	TV 100	Registered	FTA
126	TV9 Bharatvarsh	Registered	FTA
127	UNCHAINEDTV	Not registered	Not applicable
128	URBAN ACTION	Not registered	Not applicable
129	VOA News	Not registered	Not applicable
130	VOYAGES	Not registered	Not applicable
131	WESHORT	Not registered	Not applicable
132	WILDEST WISH TV	Not registered	Not applicable
133	Wion	Registered	Pay (1.00) - ZMCL
134	XTREM SPORTS	Not registered	Not applicable
135	Yachting TV	Not registered	Not applicable
136	Zee Business	Registered	Pay (0.10) - ZMCL
137	Zee News	Registered	FTA
138	Bharat Express	Registered	FTA
139	News India 1	Not registered	Not applicable

Samsung TV

Samsung TV

Total Channels: 179

Registered Channels: 76 [Pay- 25, FTA- 51]

Non- Registered Channels: 103

TABLE NO.3

LIST OF CHANNELS ON SAMSUNG TV AS ON APRIL 2026			
S.No.	Channel Name	Registered/Not Registered	Pay/FTA/DD
1	1466@k-Music	Not Registered	FTA
2	9X Jalwa	Registered	FTA
3	9X Jhakaas	Registered	FTA
4	9X Tashan	Registered	FTA
5	9XM	Registered	FTA
6	Aaj Tak	Registered	FTA
7	Aaj Tak HD	Registered	Pay- TV Today Network: 2.50
8	ABP Ananda	Registered	FTA
9	ABP Asmita	Registered	FTA
10	ABP Majha	Registered	FTA
11	ABP News	Registered	FTA
12	Animax	Not registered	Not applicable
13	Asianet News	Registered	FTA
14	Asianet Suvarna News	Registered	FTA
15	Astro Tak	Not registered	Not applicable
16	Auto Live	Not registered	Not applicable
17	B4U Kadak	Registered	FTA
18	B4U Movies	Registered	FTA
19	Balle Balle	Registered	FTA
20	Best Action TV Discontinued and recontinued	Not registered	Not applicable
21	Bhakti Play	Not registered	Not applicable
22	Bloomberg Originals	Not registered	Not applicable
23	Bloomberg TV	Registered	Pay - (4.77) Bloomberg Television Production Services

			India Private Limited
24	Bon Voyage	Not registered	Not applicable
25	Brave Wilderness	Not registered	Not applicable
26	Challenge Accepted	Not registered	Not applicable
27	Cine Jomjomat	Not registered	Not applicable
28	CNBC Awaz	Registered	Pay - (0.10) JioStar
29	CNBC Bazaar	Registered	Pay - (1.00_ Network18
30	CNBC TV18	Registered	Pay - 4.0- JioStar
31	CNN News18	Registered	Pay- (0.50) - JioStar
32	Comedy King	Not registered	Not applicable
33	Concerto	Not registered	Not applicable
34	Cook & Bake	Not registered	Not applicable
35	Cricket Gold	Not registered	Not applicable
36	Crime Scene TV	Not registered	Not applicable
37	Crime Tak	Not registered	Not applicable
38	Divya	Registered	FTA
39	Divya Bhajan	Not registered	Not applicable
40	E24	Registered	FTA
41	ENT Live	Not registered	Not applicable
42	Epic (EPIC TV)	Registered	Pay -(5.00)-(In10 Media Pvt.Ltd.)
43	Epic Gardening TV	Not registered	Not applicable
44	ETV Comedy	Not registered	Not applicable
45	ETV Josh	Not registered	Not applicable
46	ETV Music	Not registered	Not applicable
47	ETV News	Not registered	Not applicable
48	FailArmy	Not registered	Not applicable
49	Fifa+	Not registered	Not applicable
50	Fight TV Discontinued and Recontinued	Not registered	Not applicable
51	Foodie Hub	Not registered	Not applicable
52	Foodxp	Registered	Pay-(1.50)- Celebrities Management Pvt. Ltd.
53	Go Wild	Not registered	Not applicable
54	Good News Today	Registered	FTA
55	GoUSA TV	Registered	FTA

56	Gusto TV	Not registered	Not applicable
57	HD Travel Discontinued and Recontinued	Not registered	Not applicable
58	History TV18	Not registered	Not applicable
59	History TV18 Hindi	Not registered	Not applicable
60	Hollywood Desi	Not registered	Not applicable
61	Hooray Kids	Not registered	Not applicable
62	Hooray Rhymes	Not registered	Not applicable
63	House of Crime	Not registered	Not applicable
64	India Daily 24x7	Registered	FTA
65	India Today	Registered	Pay-(1.80)- TV Today Network
66	India TV Aap Ki Adalat	Not registered	Not applicable
67	India TV News	Not registered	Not applicable
68	India TV Speed News	Registered	Pay-(1.00)- Independent News Service Pvt. Ltd.
69	India TV Yoga	Not registered	Not applicable
70	InFast	Not registered	Not applicable
71	InTrouble	Not registered	Not applicable
72	InWild	Not registered	Not applicable
73	InWonder	Not registered	Not applicable
74	Jack Hanna	Not registered	Not applicable
75	KCM	Not registered	Not applicable
76	K-Content by CJ ENM	Not registered	Not applicable
77	KidDo MATIX	Not registered	Not applicable
78	Korean TV	Not registered	Not applicable
79	K-POP by CJ ENM	Not registered	Not applicable
80	Life + Style	Not registered	Not applicable
81	Malai Murasu seithikal	Registered	FTA
82	Mark Rober TV	Not registered	Not applicable
83	MAVTV Motorsports Network	Not registered	Not applicable

84	Motorvision (renamed Motorvision.TV)	Not registered	Not applicable
85	Mr. Bean Animated	Not registered	Not applicable
86	Music India	Registered	FTA
87	NDTV 24X7	Registered	Pay (3.50)- New Delhi Television Ltd.
88	NDTV GoodTimes	Registered	Pay (1.50) -Lifestyle and Media Broadcasting Ltd
89	NDTV India	Registered	FTA
90	NDTV Profit	Registered	Pay (1.50)- New Delhi Television Limited
91	News Nation	Registered	FTA
92	News State BR JH	Registered	FTA
93	News State MP CG	Registered	FTA
94	News State PUN HAR HIM	Registered	FTA
95	News State UK UP	Registered	FTA
96	News18 Bangla	Registered	Pay- (0.08)- JioStar
97	News18 Gujarati	Registered	Pay- (0.10) -JioStar
98	News18 India	Registered	FTA
99	News18 Kannada	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
100	News18 Keralam	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
101	News18 Odia	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
102	News18 Punjab Haryana	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
103	News18 Tamil Nadu	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
104	News24	Registered	FTA
105	News9 Live	Registered	FTA
106	NH Bollyfix	Not registered	Not applicable
107	NH BollyRaga	Not registered	Not applicable
108	Nosey	Not registered	Not applicable
109	People are Awesome	Not registered	Not applicable
110	Pitaara	Registered	FTA
111	Powerkids Kartoon Channel	Not registered	Not applicable
112	Qwest TV	Not registered	Not applicable
113	R Bangla	Registered	FTA

114	Republic Bharat	Registered	FTA
115	Republic Kannada	Registered	FTA
116	Republic TV	Registered	FTA
117	Sangeet Bangla	Registered	FTA
118	Sangeet Bhojpuri	Registered	FTA
119	Sangeet Marathi	Registered	FTA
120	South Station	Not registered	Not applicable
121	Star Central	Not registered	Not applicable
122	TeluguOne TV	Not registered	Not applicable
123	The Jungle Book	Not registered	Not applicable
124	The Lallantop	Not registered	Not applicable
125	The Movie Club	Not registered	Not applicable
126	The Pet Collective	Not registered	Not applicable
127	The Try Guys	Not registered	Not applicable
128	TheSorryGirls TV	Not registered	Not applicable
129	Times Now Navbharat	Registered	FTA
130	Toon Goggles	Not registered	Not applicable
131	TRACE Sport Stars	Not registered	Not applicable
132	Trace Urban	Not registered	Not applicable
133	Travelxp HD	Registered	Pay (9.00)
134	TV9 Bangla	Registered	FTA
135	TV9 Bharatvarsh	Registered	FTA
136	TV9 Gujarati	Registered	FTA
137	TV9 Kannada	Registered	FTA
138	TV9 Telugu	Registered	FTA
139	WeatherSpy	Not registered	Not applicable
140	Wheel World	Not registered	Not applicable
141	Wild Flix	Not registered	Not applicable
142	Wild Stuff	Not registered	Not applicable
143	WION	Registered	Pay- (1.00)- ZMCL
144	Xplore	Not registered	Not applicable
145	XXTreme Jobs	Not registered	Not applicable
146	Zee 24 Ghanta	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- ZMCL
147	Zee 24 Kalak	Registered	FTA
148	Zee 24 Taas	Registered	Pay- (0.10) - ZMCL
149	Zee Business	Registered	Pay- (0.10) - ZMCL

150	Zee News	Registered	FTA
151	Ace TV	Not registered	Not applicable
152	Automotions	Not registered	Not applicable
153	B4U Bhojpuri	Registered	FTA
154	B4U Music	Registered	FTA
155	Bollygold	Not registered	Not applicable
156	Bollywood Masala	Not registered	Not applicable
157	Dharma Live	Registered	FTA
158	Epic Bharat	Registered	FTA
159	Golf Network	Not registered	Not applicable
160	Green Gold TV	Not registered	Not applicable
161	Heritage +	Not registered	Not applicable
162	Kings Of Comedy	Not registered	Not applicable
163	Nature Time	Not registered	Not applicable
164	NDTV Marathi	Registered	FTA
165	News24 MP CG	Registered	FTA
166	Pickleball Now	Not registered	Not applicable
167	Sansani Live	Not registered	Not applicable
168	Series K BY MBC	Not registered	Not applicable
169	SMTOWN	Not registered	Not applicable
170	Tamil Gold	Not registered	Not applicable
171	That's 70s	Not registered	Not applicable
172	That's 80s	Not registered	Not applicable
173	That's Rock	Not registered	Not applicable
174	The Movie Club +2	Not registered	Not applicable
175	Zee Cine Classic	Not registered	Not applicable
176	Zee Comedy Nation	Not registered	Not applicable
177	Zee Dil Se	Not registered	Not applicable
178	Zee Horror Nights	Not registered	Not applicable
179	Zee South Flix	Not registered	Not applicable

LG WebOS

LG Web OS

Total Channels: 145

Registered Channels: 72 [Pay- 22, FTA- 50]

Non- Registered Channels: 73

TABLE NO.4

LIST OF CHANNELS ON LG WEB OS AS ON APRIL 2026			
S.No	Channel Name	Registered/Not Registered/DD	Pay/FTA/DD
1	@K-MUSIC	Not registered	Not applicable
2	123 GO!	Not registered	Not applicable
3	4k Travel	Not registered	Not applicable
4	5-minute Crafts	Not registered	Not applicable
5	9X Jalwa	Registered	FTA
6	9X Jhakaas	Registered	FTA
7	9X Tashan	Registered	FTA
8	9XM	Registered	FTA
9	AajTak	Registered	FTA
10	ABN Andhrajyothy	Registered	FTA
11	ABP Ananda	Registered	FTA
12	ABP Asmita	Registered	FTA
13	ABP News	Registered	FTA
14	Arirang	Registered	FTA
15	B4U Kadak	Registered	FTA
16	B4U Movies	Registered	FTA
17	B4U Music	Registered	FTA
18	Best Action TV	Not registered	Not applicable
19	Best Thriller	Not registered	Not applicable
20	Bhakti Play	Not registered	Not applicable
21	Bharat 24	Registered	FTA
22	Bollywood Masala	Not registered	Not applicable
23	Brat	Not registered	Not applicable
24	Cartoon TV	Not registered	Not applicable
25	Cine Jomjomat	Not registered	Not applicable
26	CNBC Awaz	Registered	Pay- Jiostar - 0.10

27	CNBC TV18	Registered	Pay-Jiostar -4.0
28	CNN News18	Registered	Pay- Jiostar- 0.50
29	Comedy Tadka	Not registered	Not applicable
30	Divya	Registered	FTA
31	Divya Bhajan	Not registered	Not applicable
32	Docuvision	Not registered	Not applicable
33	essential;	Not registered	Not applicable
34	Euro News	Registered	FTA
35	Fight TV	Not registered	Not applicable
36	Ghaint Punjab	Not registered	Not applicable
37	Ghost Hunters	Not registered	Not applicable
38	Good News Today	Registered	FTA
39	Heritage	Not registered	Not applicable
40	Hooray Rhymes	Not registered	Not applicable
41	Horror TV	Not registered	Not applicable
42	India Daily 24*7	Registered	FTA
43	India Today	Registered	Pay - (1.80)- TV Today Network
44	IndiaTV News	Registered	FTA
45	IndiaTV Yoga	Not registered	Not applicable
46	IndiaTVSpeedNews	Registered	Pay -(1.0)- Independent News Service Pvt. Ltd.
47	INFAST	Not registered	Not applicable
48	INWONDER	Not registered	Not applicable
49	Just For Laugh	Not registered	Not applicable
50	K-ASMR	Not registered	Not applicable
51	Kolkata TV	Not registered	Not applicable
52	Lallantop	Not registered	Not applicable
53	Malaimurasu Seithikal	Registered	FTA
54	Mango Mobile TV	Not registered	Not applicable
55	MTRSPT1	Not registered	Not applicable
56	NDTV Marathi	Registered	FTA
57	NDTV Profit	Registered	Pay -(1.50)- New Delhi Television Limited
58	NDTV24x7	Registered	Pay (3.50) - New Delhi Television Limited

59	NDTV India	Registered	FTA
60	News 18 Kerala	Registered	Pay (0.10) - Network18 Media and Investment Ltd.
61	News 18 Lokmat	Registered	Pay (0.10) - IBN Lokmat News Pvt. Ltd.
62	News 24 MP Chhattisgarh	Registered	FTA
63	News Nation	Registered	FTA
64	News Tamil 24*7	Registered	FTA
65	News18 Bangla	Registered	Pay- (0.08)- JioStar
66	News18 Bihar Jharkhand (0.10)	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
67	News18 Gujarati	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
68	News18 India	Registered	FTA
69	News18 Kannada	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
70	News18 MP Chhattisgarh	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
71	News18 Tamil Nadu	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
72	News18 UP Uttarakhand	Registered	Pay- (0.10)- JioStar
73	News24 Live	Not registered	Not applicable
74	News9 Live	Registered	FTA
75	Nightmare Network	Not registered	Not applicable
76	OUTDOOR TV	Not registered	Not applicable
77	Pitaara Comedy discontinued and recontinued	Not registered	Not applicable
78	Pitaara Movies	Registered	FTA
79	Pocket Films	Not registered	Not applicable
80	Republic Bangla	Registered	FTA
81	Republic Bharat	Registered	FTA
82	Republic Kannada	Registered	FTA
83	Saam TV	Registered	FTA
84	Saga Music Haryanvi	Not registered	Not applicable

85	Saga-Music	Not registered	Not applicable
86	Sandesh News	Registered	FTA
87	Sikh Ratnawali	Not registered	Not applicable
88	Slick Slime Sam	Not registered	Not applicable
89	Smart Healthy Green Living	Not registered	Not applicable
90	Space Series	Not registered	Not applicable
91	SportsGrid	Not registered	Not applicable
92	Suvarna News	Registered	FTA (Actual name- Asianet Suvarna News)
93	TeenVee	Not registered	Not applicable
94	Timber Kings	Not registered	Not applicable
95	Tolly TV	Not registered	Not applicable
96	TV9 Bangla	Registered	FTA
97	TV9 Bharatvarsh	Registered	FTA
98	TV9 Kannada	Registered	FTA
99	TV9 Telugu	Registered	FTA
100	Wicked Tuna	Not registered	Not applicable
101	YRF Music	Not registered	Not applicable
102	Zee 24 Ghanta	Registered	Pay- 0.10- ZMCL
103	Zee 24 Kalak	Registered	FTA
104	Zee 24 Taas	Registered	Pay- 0.10- ZMCL
105	Zee Business	Registered	Pay- 0.10- ZMCL
106	Zee Cine Classic	Not registered	Not applicable
107	Zee Comedy Nation	Not registered	Not applicable
108	Zee Dil Se	Not registered	Not applicable
109	Zee Horror Nights	Not registered	Not applicable
110	Zee News	Registered	FTA
111	Zee South Flix	Not registered	Not applicable
112	Zee Wion	Registered	Pay- 1.0- ZMCL
113	News18 Punjab Haryana	Registered	Pay- 0.10- JioStar
114	News 18 Jammu Kashmir LH	Registered	Pay-(0.10)- Network 18 Media & Investment Ltd.
115	Argus-News	Registered	FTA
116	TV9 Gujarati	Registered	FTA

117	Gujarat First	Registered	FTA
118	ETV News	Not registered	Not applicable
119	Sakshi TV	Registered	FTA
120	Big TV	Registered	FTA
121	Asianet-News	Registered	FTA
122	News- Malayalam	Registered	FTA (News Malayalam 24x7)
123	History TV 18	Not registered	Not applicable (Only HD is being shows as licensed by MIB)
124	Swastik Stories	Not registered	Not applicable
125	Laughter-Shots	Not registered	Not applicable
126	IndiaTV Aap ki adalat	Not registered	Not applicable
127	R plus-Gold	Registered	FTA
128	ETV Josh	Not registered	Not applicable
129	ETV Comedy	Not registered	Not applicable
130	Mahaa-max	Registered	FTA
131	NKR-TV	Registered	FTA
132	Wedo Big Stories- No subs	Not registered	Not applicable
133	Automations	Not registered	Not applicable
134	Jojo- tv	Not registered	Not applicable
135	Thalaa-TV	Not registered	Not applicable
136	WedoMovies ASIA	Not registered	Not applicable
137	Kung Fu Action	Not registered	Not applicable
138	E-TV Music	Not registered	Not applicable
139	SM Town	Not registered	Not applicable
140	TrendOn	Not registered	Not applicable
141	Escape-TV-Eng	Not registered	Not applicable
142	My Toonz	Not registered	Not applicable
143	Cricket Gold USA	Not registered	Not applicable
144	Pro League Network	Not registered	Not applicable
145	Swastic Stories	Not registered	Not applicable

Famelack/TV Garden

Famelack/TV Garden [Total Channels: 524]

Registered Channels: 345 [Pay- 42, FTA- 299, No info - 4]

Non- Registered Channels: 139

DD Channels: 38

Channels of Russian Govt and Kerala Govt: 1 each

TABLE NO.5

LIST OF CHANNELS ON FAMELACK AS ON APRIL 2026			
S.No	Name of Channel	Registered/Not Registered/DD	Pay/FTA/DD
1	News18 Lokmat	Registered	Pay (0.10) -- IBN Lokmat News Pvt. Ltd.
2	4TV News	Registered	Pay (1.0) - Fame Media Pvt. Ltd.
3	6 TV Telugu	Not registered	Not applicable
4	9X Jalwa	Registered	FTA
5	9x Jhakaas	Registered	FTA
6	9X Tashan	Registered	FTA
7	9XM	Registered	FTA
8	10 TV	Not registered	Not applicable
9	10 TV News Telugu	Not registered	Not applicable
10	24 News	Not registered	Not applicable
11	99 TV	Registered	FTA
12	99TV Telugu	Not registered	Not applicable
13	Aaj Tak	Registered	FTA
14	Aakash Aath	Not registered	Not applicable
15	Aamar Bangla	Not registered	Not applicable
16	Aastha Bhajan	Registered	FTA
17	Aastha Kannada	Registered	FTA
18	Aastha Prime 1	Not registered	Not applicable
19	Aastha Tamil	Not registered	Not applicable
20	Aastha Telugu	Registered	FTA
21	ABN Andhra Jyoti	Registered	FTA

22	ABN Telugu	Not registered	Not applicable
23	ABP Ananda	Registered	FTA
24	ABP Asmita	Registered	FTA
25	ABP Ganga	Registered	FTA
26	ABP Majha	Registered	FTA
27	ABP News	Registered	FTA
28	Agamvani Channel	Not registered	Not applicable
29	AKD Calcutta News	Registered	FTA
30	Alankar TV	Not registered	Not applicable
31	Amrita TV	Registered	FTA
32	Angel TV Africa	Not registered	Not applicable
33	Angel TV America	Not registered	Not applicable
34	Angel TV Arabia	Not registered	Not applicable
35	Angel TV Australia	Not registered	Not applicable
36	Angel TV Chinese	Not registered	Not applicable
37	Angel TV Europe	Not registered	Not applicable
38	Angel TV FarEast	Not registered	Not applicable
39	Angel TV Indo-China	Not registered	Not applicable
40	ANI News	Not registered	Not applicable
41	ANN News	Not registered	Not applicable
42	Aradana TV	Registered	FTA
43	Asianet News	Registered	FTA
44	Asianet Suvarna News	Registered	FTA
45	Awaaz India TV	Not registered	Not applicable
46	Awakening TV	Registered	FTA
47	Ayush TV	Registered	FTA
48	Balle Balle	Registered	FTA
49	Bhakthi TV	Registered	FTA
50	Bharat Express	Registered	FTA
51	Bharat Samachar	Registered	FTA
52	Bhojpuri Cinema	Registered	FTA
53	Big Magic	Registered	Pay (1.0) - ZEEL
54	Big TV	Registered	FTA
55	Big TV 24x7	Registered	FTA

56	Big TV Telugu News	Not registered	Not applicable
57	Brio TV	Registered	FTA
58	BRK News	Registered	FTA
59	BS TV	Registered	FTA
60	BVG	Registered	FTA
61	Calcutta News	Registered	FTA (IS AKD CALCUTTA REPITION)
62	CCV	Not registered	Not applicable
63	Channel Divya	Registered	FTA but name is only Divya
64	Channel WIN	Registered	FTA
65	Chardikla Gurbaani TV	Not registered	Not applicable
66	CNBC Awaz	Registered	Pay- Jiostar (0.10)
67	CNBC Bazaar	Registered	Pay- Jiostar (1.0)
68	CNBC TV18	Registered	Pay- Jiostar- (4.0)
69	CNBC TV18 Prime HD	Registered	Pay- Jiostar -(1.0)
70	Cnews Bharat	Not registered	Not applicable
71	CTVN AKD PLUS	Registered	FTA
72	CVR English	Registered	FTA (actual name CVR NEWS ENGLISH)
73	CVR Health	Registered	FTA
74	CVR OM Spiritual	Registered	FTA
75	Dainik Gomantak TV	Not registered	Not applicable
76	Dangal 2	Registered	FTA
77	Darshan 24	Registered	FTA
78	Darshana TV	Registered	FTA
79	DD Arun Prabha	DD	DD
80	DD Assam	DD	DD
81	DD Bangla	DD	DD
82	DD Bharati	DD	DD
83	DD Bihar	DD	DD
84	DD Chandana	DD	DD
85	DD Chhatisgarh	DD	DD
86	DD Girnar	DD	DD
87	DD Goa	DD	DD

88	DD Haryana	DD	DD
89	DD Himachal Pradesh	DD	DD
90	DD India	DD	DD
91	DD Jharkhand	DD	DD
92	DD Kashir	DD	DD
93	DD Kisan	DD	DD
94	DD Madhya Pradesh	DD	DD
95	DD Malayalam	DD	DD
96	DD Manipur	DD	DD
97	DD Meghalaya	DD	DD
98	DD Mizoram	DD	DD
99	DD Nagaland	DD	DD
100	DD National (instead of DD National HD)	DD	DD
101	DD News	DD	DD
102	DD Odia	DD	DD
103	DD Punjabi	DD	DD
104	DD Rajasthan	DD	DD
105	DD Sahyadri	DD	DD
106	DD Saptgiri	DD	DD
107	DD Sports	DD	DD
108	DD Tamil	DD	DD
109	DD Tripura	DD	DD
110	DD Urdu	DD	DD
111	DD Uttar Pradesh	DD	DD
112	DD Uttarkhand	DD	DD
113	DD Yadagiri	DD	DD
114	Dheeran TV	Registered	FTA
115	DY 365	Registered	FTA
116	E24	Registered	FTA
117	EET TV	Not registered	Not applicable
118	Enter 10 Bangla	Registered	FTA
119	Epic TV Digital	Not registered	Not applicable
120	ET Now Swadesh	Not registered	Not applicable
121	Fakt Marathi	Registered	FTA

122	Fast Mix	Not registered	Not applicable
123	Fateh TV	Registered	FTA
124	FEVA Music	Not registered	Not applicable
125	First India News	Not registered	Not applicable
126	Goldmines	Registered	FTA
127	Goldmines 2	Registered	FTA
128	Goldmines Bollywood	Registered	FTA
129	Goldmines Movies	Not registered	Not applicable
130	Good News Today	Registered	FTA
131	Goodness TV	Registered	FTA
132	Gospel TV India	Not registered	Not applicable
133	GS TV	Registered	FTA
134	Gujarat First	Registered	FTA
135	Gulistan News	Registered	FTA
136	Gyandarshan	DD	DD
137	Hare Krsna TV	Registered	FTA
138	Harvest TV	Registered	FTA
139	Harvest TV Keralam	Registered	FTA
140	Harvest USA	Not registered	Not applicable
141	Hebron TV	Not registered	Not applicable
142	Hi Dost!	Registered	FTA
143	High News	Registered	FTA (now- News1)
144	Hindu Dharmam	Registered	FTA
145	History TV18 HD	Registered	Pay (7.0) -AETN 18 Media Pvt. Ltd.
146	HMTV	Not registered	Not applicable
147	hmtv News Live	Not registered	Not applicable
148	HNN 24x7	Registered	FTA
149	Hornbill TV	Registered	FTA
150	IBC 24	Registered	FTA
151	India News Haryana	Registered	FTA
152	India TV Aap Ki Adalat	Not registered	Not applicable
153	India TV Speed News	Registered	Pay (1.0) -Independent News Service Pvt. Ltd.

154	India Today	Registered	Pay (1.80) -TV Today Network
155	India TV	Registered	FTA
156	Inews	Registered	Licenced - Saurbah Int'l Pvt Ltds- but not able to conclude if pay or FTA
157	INH 24x7	Registered	FTA
158	In-sync	Registered	FTA
159	INWILD	Not registered	Not applicable
160	Isai Aruvi	Registered	Pay (4.0) Kalaignar TV Pvt. Ltd.
161	Ishwar Bhakti TV	Registered	FTA
162	Jai Maharashtra	Registered	FTA
163	Jai Maharashtra News (HD)	Registered	FTA
164	Jaihind TV	Registered	FTA
165	JAN TV	Registered	FTA
166	Janam TV	Registered	FTA
167	Janta TV	Registered	FTA
168	Jaya Plus	Registered	Pay (0.50) Mavis Satcom Limited
169	Jeevan TV	Registered	FTA
170	Jinvani Channel	Registered	FTA
171	JKL 24x7 News	Registered	FTA (Name wrongly written on platform as JK instead of JKL)
172	K News India	Registered	FTA
173	Kairali Arabia	Registered	Licenced but not able to find if Pay or FTA
174	Kairali News	Registered	FTA
175	Kairali TV	Registered	FTA
176	Kairali We	Not registered	Not applicable
177	Kalaignar Murasu	Registered	Pay (12.0) Kalaignar TV Pvt. Ltd.
178	Kalaignar Seithigal	Registered	Pay (1.0) Kalaignar TV Pvt. Ltd.

179	Kalaignar TV	Registered	Pay (19.0) Kalaignar TV Pvt. Ltd.
180	Kalaignar TV News	Registered	FTA
181	Kalinga TV	Registered	FTA
182	Kanak News	Registered	FTA
183	Kannur Vision	Not registered	Not applicable
184	Kappa TV	Registered	FTA
185	Kartavya TV	Not registered	Not applicable
186	Kashish News	Registered	FTA
187	Kaumudy TV	Registered	FTA
188	KCM India	Not registered	Not applicable
189	Kerala Vision News 24x7	Not registered	Not applicable
190	Khushboo Bangla	Not registered	Not applicable
191	Kolkata TV	Not registered	Not applicable
192	Kumudam News	Not registered	Not applicable
193	Living India News	Registered	FTA
194	Lokshahi Marathi	Registered	FTA
195	Makkal TV (576i)	Registered	FTA
196	Malai Murasu TV	Registered	FTA
197	Malaimurasu TV 24x7	Not registered	Not applicable
198	Malar TV	Registered	FTA
199	Manorama News	Not registered	Not applicable
200	Manoranjan Grand	Registered	FTA
201	Manoranjan TV	Registered	FTA
202	Mathrubhumi News	Registered	FTA
203	Mazhavil Manorama	Registered	FTA
204	MBC TV	Registered	FTA
205	Media One	Registered	FTA
206	Mercy TV	Registered	FTA
207	Metro TV	Not registered	Not applicable
208	MK Six	Registered	FTA
209	Music India	Registered	FTA
210	Nagaland TV	Not registered	Not applicable
211	Nambikkai TV	Registered	FTA
212	Namdhari	Not registered	Not applicable

213	Nandighosha TV	Registered	FTA
214	NDTV 24x7	Registered	Pay (3.50) New Delhi Television Limited
215	NDTV Good Times	Registered	Pay (1.50) Lifestyle and Media Broadcasting
216	NDTV India	Registered	FTA
217	NDTV MadhyaPradesh Chhatisgarh	Registered	FTA
218	NDTV Marathi	Registered	FTA
219	NDTV Profit	Registered	Pay (1.50) New Delhi Television Limited
220	NDTV Rajasthan	Registered	FTA
221	NE News	Registered	FTA
222	News 1st	Registered	FTA
223	News Daily 24	Not registered	Not applicable
224	News India 24x7	Registered	FTA
225	News J	Registered	FTA
226	News Live	Registered	FTA
227	NDTV	Registered	Pay (actually showing NDTV 24X7 which is a pay channel- 3.50
228	NDTV India	Registered	Pay (actually showing NDTV 24X7 which is a pay channel- 3.50
229	News 24	Registered	FTA (News 24 Think First)
230	News Live	Registered	FTA
231	News Malayalam 24x7	Registered	FTA
232	News Nation	Registered	FTA
233	News State	Registered	FTA
234	News Tamil 24x7	Registered	FTA
235	News9Live	Not registered	Not applicable
236	News X	Registered	Pay (1.0) Direct New Pvt. Ltd.
237	News18 Assam North-East	Registered	Pay Jiostar- 0.10
238	News18 Bangla	Registered	Pay Jiostar- 0.10
239	News18 Bihar Jharkhand	Registered	Pay Jiostar- 0.10

240	News18 Delhi NCR JK (earlier News18 JKLH)	Registered	Pay Jiostar- 0.10
241	News18 Gujarati	Registered	Pay- Jiostar-0.10
242	News18 India	Registered	FTA
243	News18 Kannada	Registered	Pay - Jiostar - 0.10
244	News18 Kerala	Registered	Pay - Jiostar - 0.10
245	News18 Madhya Pradesh/Chhatisgarh	Registered	Pay - Jiostar - 0.10
246	News18 Marathi	Registered	Pay - Jiostar - 0.10
247	News18 Odia	Registered	Pay - Jiostar - 0.10
248	News 18 Punjab/Haryana/Himachal	Registered	Pay - jiostar- 0.10 (now- News18 Punjab/Haryana)
249	News18 Rajasthan	Registered	Pay - Jiostar - 0.10
250	News18 Tamil Nadu	Registered	Pay - Jiostar - 0.10
251	News18 Urdu	Not registered	Not applicable
252	News18 Uttar Pradesh Uttarakhand	Registered	Pay - Jiostar - 0.10
253	NewsFirst Kannada	Registered	FTA (News 1st kannada)
254	NewsX Live	Registered	Pay (1.00) Direct New Private Limited
255	Nireekshana TV	Registered	FTA
256	North east Live	Registered	FTA
257	NTC TV	Not registered	Not applicable
258	NTV Telugu	Registered	FTA
259	Odisha TV	Registered	FTA (SAME AS OTV)
260	Orange Bangla TV	Registered	FTA
261	Oscar Movies Bhojpuri	Registered	FTA
262	Paras TV	Registered	FTA
263	Peppers TV	Registered	FTA
264	Pitaara	Registered	FTA (NOW- PITAARA MOVIES)
265	Polimer News	Registered	FTA
266	Polimer TV	Registered	FTA
267	Power TV	Registered	FTA

268	POWERVISION TV	Registered	FTA
269	Prag News	Registered	FTA
270	Prarthana TV	Registered	Pay (3.00) Tarang Broadcasting Co. Ltd [Actual name Prarthana Life]
271	Pratham Khabar 24x7	Not registered	Not applicable
272	Pratidin Time	Not registered	Not applicable
273	Pravasi Channel	Not registered	Not applicable
274	Prime9 News	Registered	FTA (Actual name - Prime 9 Plus)
275	Prudent Media	Not registered	Not applicable
276	PTC Chakde	Registered	FTA
277	PTC Music	Registered	FTA
278	PTC Punjabi	Registered	FTA
279	PTC Punjabi Gold	Registered	FTA
280	Public TV	Registered	Licenced but not able to find if Pay or FTA
281	Pudhari News	Registered	FTA
282	Punjabi Hits	Not registered	Not applicable
283	Puthiya Thalaimurai	Registered	FTA
284	PuthiyathalaimuraiTV	Registered	FTA (REPEATED)
285	Puthuyugam TV	Registered	FTA
286	R Plus	Registered	FTA
287	Raj Musix Kannada	Registered	FTA
288	Raj Musix Malayalam	Registered	FTA
289	Raj Musix Telugu	Registered	FTA
290	Raj News Kannada	Registered	FTA
291	Raj News Malayalam	Registered	FTA
292	Raj News Telugu	Registered	FTA
293	Rajasthan Patrika	Not registered	Not applicable
294	Ramdhenu	Registered	FTA
295	Rang	Registered	FTA
296	Real News Kerala	Not registered	Not applicable
297	Republic Bangla	Registered	FTA

298	Republic Bharat	Registered	FTA
299	Republic Kannada	Registered	FTA
300	Republic TV	Registered	FTA
301	Republic World	Not registered	Not applicable
302	Roja Movies	Not registered	Not applicable
303	Roja TV	Not registered	Not applicable
304	Rongeen TV	Registered	FTA
305	RT India	Russian Govt.	Russia Today (India-Russia Govt)
306	Saam TV	Registered	FTA
307	Saam TV News	Registered	FTA (same as Saam TV)
308	Sadhna	Registered	FTA (actual name - Sadhna Gold)
309	Sadhna Plus News	Registered	FTA
310	Safari TV	Registered	FTA
311	Sakshi TV	Registered	FTA
312	Sai TV	Registered	FTA
313	Salvation TV	Not registered	Not applicable
314	Sana Plus	Not registered	Not applicable
315	Sandesh News	Registered	FTA
316	Sangeet Bangla	Registered	FTA
317	Sangeet Bhojpuri	Registered	FTA
318	Sangeet Marathi	Registered	FTA
319	Sankara TV	Registered	FTA (Actual name - Sri Sankara)
320	Sansad TV 1	DD	DD
321	Sanskar TV	Registered	FTA
322	Sanskar Web TV	Not registered	Not applicable
323	Santvani Channel	Registered	FTA (Actual name - Sant Wani)
324	Sathiyam News	Registered	FTA
325	Satsang TV	Registered	FTA
326	Satsang Web TV	Not registered	Not applicable
327	Shalini TV	Registered	FTA
328	Shalom	Registered	FTA (Actual name Shalom Television)

329	Shalom Global	Not registered	Not applicable
330	Shekinah TV	Registered	FTA
331	Shemaroo Josh	Registered	FTA
332	Shemaroo TV	Registered	FTA
333	Shemaroo Umang	Registered	FTA
334	Shubh Cinema TV	Registered	FTA
335	Siri Kannada	Registered	FTA
336	Shubh TV	Registered	FTA
337	Shubh Sandesh TV	Registered	FTA
338	Siripolli TV	Registered	Pay (8.0) - Kalaignar
339	Srisaila TV	Not registered	Not applicable
340	Steelbird Music	Not registered	Not applicable
341	Studio One+	Registered	FTA
342	Subhavaartha TV	Not registered	Not applicable
343	Subin TV	Not registered	Not applicable
344	Sudarshan News	Registered	FTA
345	Suriyan TV	Not registered	Not applicable
346	Sun News	Registered	Pay (1.0) Sun TV Network
347	SVBC	Registered	FTA (Repeated as SVBC TTD)
348	SVBC 2	Registered	FTA
349	SVBC 3	Registered	FTA
350	SVBC 4	Registered	FTA
351	SVBC TTD	Registered	FTA (Actual name SVBC)
352	SVBC TTD: SVBC2	Registered	FTA
353	Swadesh News	Registered	FTA
354	Swaraj Express SMBC	Registered	FTA
355	T News	Not registered	Not applicable
356	T News Telugu	Not registered	Not applicable
357	Taaza TV	Registered	FTA
358	Tadka	Not registered	Not applicable
359	Tamil Janam	Registered	FTA
360	Tamilian TV	Not registered	Not applicable

361	Telugu One	Not registered	Not applicable
362	Thanthi TV	Registered	FTA
363	TNP News	Registered	FTA
364	TOI Global	Not registered	Not applicable
365	Times Now Marathi	Not registered	Not applicable
366	TIMES NOW Navbharat	Registered	FTA
367	Top News Marathi	Not registered	Not applicable
368	Total Bhakti	Not registered	Not applicable
369	Total TV Haryana	Not registered	Not applicable
370	TV BRICS English	Not registered	Not applicable
371	TV 5 Kannada	Registered	FTA
372	TV5 News	Registered	FTA
373	TV9 Bangla	Registered	FTA
374	TV9 Bharatvarsh	Registered	FTA
375	Tv9 Gujarati	Registered	FTA
376	TV9 Kannada	Registered	FTA
377	TV9 Marathi	Registered	FTA
378	TV9 Telugu	Registered	FTA
379	TV9 Telugu News	Registered	FTA Same as TV9 Telugu
380	V6 News	Registered	FTA
381	V6 News Telugu	Registered	FTA Same as V6 news
382	Vaanavil TV	Registered	FTA
383	Vanitha TV	Registered	FTA
384	Vedic	Registered	FTA
385	Velicham TV	Registered	FTA (Actual name VELICHAM PLUS)
386	VIP News	Registered	FTA
387	Vendhar TV	Registered	FTA
388	Vissa TV	Registered	FTA
389	Vyas NIV	Not registered	Not applicable
390	WFN: World Fishing Network	Not registered	Not applicable
391	Win TV	Registered	FTA
392	WION	Registered	Pay - ZMCL - 1.00

393	YRF Music	Not registered	Not applicable
394	Zainabia Channel	Not registered	Not applicable
395	ZB Bhakti	Not registered	Not applicable
396	ZB Cartoon	Not registered	Not applicable
397	ZB Cinema	Not registered	Not applicable
398	ZillarBarta News	Not registered	Not applicable
399	Zoom	Registered	Pay (0.50) Benett Coleman
400	7S Music	Registered	FTA
401	Aadinath TV	Registered	FTA
402	Aastha Gujarati	Registered	FTA
403	Adhyatm TV	Registered	FTA (now Super TV as per list)
404	All Time Movies	Registered	FTA
405	AmarUjala	Not registered	Not applicable
406	Anand TV	Registered	FTA
407	Ananda Barta	Not registered	Not applicable
408	Anandam Abi TV	Not registered	Not applicable
409	Anandam TV	Not registered	Not applicable
410	ANB News	Registered	FTA
411	Angel TV India	Not registered	Not applicable
412	Animax Asia India	Not registered	Not applicable
413	Anjan TV	Registered	FTA
414	APN	Registered	FTA
415	Apna Punjab TV	Not registered	Not applicable
416	Argus News	Registered	FTA
417	Aryan TV National	Registered	FTA
418	Asianet Middle East	Registered	Licenced for JioStar no confirmation if its pay or FTA
419	Assam Talks	Registered	FTA
420	Bansal News	Registered	FTA
421	Cavalry TV	Not registered	Not applicable
422	Captain	Registered	FTA
423	Chaukas TV	Not registered	Not applicable

424	Chithiram	Registered	FTA (Actual name Kalaignar Chithiram)
425	Classic Hits	Not registered	Not applicable
426	Commercio TV	Not registered	Not applicable
427	CVR News	Registered	FTA
428	DA Public News	Not registered	Not applicable
429	Desi Channel	Not registered	Not applicable
430	Dharm Sandesh	Registered	FTA
431	Disha TV	Registered	FTA
432	Divyavani TV	Registered	FTA
433	FloRacing 24/7	Not registered	Not applicable
434	Food Food	Registered	FTA
435	Gangaur TV	Registered	FTA
436	GoodNews TV	Registered	FTA
437	GTC News	Registered	FTA
438	GTC Punjabi	Registered	FTA
439	Guarantee News	Registered	FTA (Actual name Guarantee news 24x7)
440	Har Khabar	Registered	FTA
441	Hope Channel India	Registered	FTA
442	In Touch+	Not registered	Not applicable
443	Ind 24	Registered	FTA
444	India Ahead	Registered	FTA
445	India Daily Live	Registered	FTA
446	I News	Registered	FTA
447	Josh TV	Not registered	Not applicable
448	Kerala Vision	Registered	FTA
449	Khabar Fast	Registered	FTA
450	Khabrain Abhi Tak	Registered	FTA
451	Kite Victers	Kerala Govt.	Kerala Government Channel
452	KTV Bangla	Registered	FTA
453	Live Times	Registered	FTA
454	MNadu TV	Registered	FTA
455	Madha TV	Registered	FTA

456	Madhimugam TV	Not registered	Not applicable
457	Maha Movie	Registered	FTA
458	Mahaa Bhakti	Registered	FTA
459	Mahaa Max	Registered	FTA
460	Maina TV	Not registered	Not applicable
461	Manoranjan Prime	Registered	FTA
462	Mantavya News	Registered	FTA
463	Marutam TV	Not registered	Not applicable
464	Matti TV	Not registered	Not applicable
465	Mh 1 Music	Not registered	Not applicable
466	Mh 1 News	Registered	FTA
467	MH One Dil Se	Registered	FTA
468	MH One Movies	Registered	FTA
469	Mojo TV	Registered	FTA
470	MoviePlex	Registered	FTA
471	Nepal 1	Registered	FTA
472	Network 10	Registered	FTA
473	News 7 Tamil	Registered	FTA
474	News 11	Registered	FTA
475	News 24	Registered	FTA
476	News 24 MP and Chhatisgarh	Registered	FTA
477	NKR TV Kannada	Registered	FTA
478	Oli TV	Not registered	Not applicable
479	OM TV	Registered	FTA
480	On TV	Registered	FTA
481	Onkar Only Truth TV	Registered	FTA
482	OTV	Registered	FTA
483	OurVinyl	Not registered	Not applicable
484	Padharo Sa	Not registered	Not applicable
485	Pankh	Not registered	Not applicable
486	Pasand TV	Registered	FTA
487	Peace of Mind TV	Registered	FTA
488	Pear TV	Registered	FTA
489	PMC Telugu	Not registered	Not applicable

490	Prime News	Not registered	Not applicable
491	PTC News	Registered	FTA
492	Raftaar Media	Registered	FTA
493	Ragni TV	Not registered	Not applicable
494	Rengoni	Registered	FTA
495	Rozana Spokesman	Registered	FTA
496	Saang TV	Not registered	Not applicable
497	Sach Bedhadak	Registered	FTA
498	Sahana News	Registered	FTA
499	Sairam TV	Registered	FTA
500	Salaam TV	Registered	PAY - ZMCL - 0.10
501	Sairam TV	Registered	FTA
502	Samachar Plus	Registered	FTA (ACTUAL NAME UTKRISHT NEWS SAMACHAR PLUS)
503	Samachar Plus 24x7	Registered	FTA
504	Samay Kolkata	Not registered	Not applicable
505	Sansad TV 2	DD	DD
506	Soham TV	Not registered	Not applicable
507	Songdew TV	Not registered	Not applicable
508	South Station	Not registered	Not applicable
509	Sports First TV	Not registered	Not applicable
510	Studio Yuva	Registered	FTA
511	STV Haryana News	Registered	FTA
512	Subharti TV	Registered	FTA
513	Thanthi One	Registered	FTA
514	The Movie Club 2+	Not registered	Not applicable
515	The Q India	Registered	FTA (THE Q)
516	News 6	Not registered	Not applicable
517	TV 13 Gujarati	Not registered	Not applicable
518	Unleashed by DOGTV	Not registered	Not applicable
519	UTV Anandam	Not registered	Not applicable
520	Vasanth TV	Registered	FTA
521	Vissa TV	Registered	FTA
522	Vistaar News	Registered	FTA



ALL INDIA DIGITAL CABLE FEDERATION

523	VTV News	Not registered	Not applicable
524	Wayanad Vision	Not registered	Not applicable

Annexure 1



Communications Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 21

[^{F1}PART 3A

PROMINENCE ON TELEVISION SELECTION SERVICES

Textual Amendments

- F1** Pt. 3A inserted (24.5.2024 for specified purposes, 23.8.2024 except for the insertion of ss. 362AA(1)(a)(c)(5)(8), 362AJ, 362AK, 362AO) by [Media Act 2024 \(c. 15\)](#), **ss. 28(1)**, 55(1)(a); S.I. 2024/858, reg. 2(1)(h) (with reg. 2(2))

Designated internet programme services

362AA Designation of internet programme services

- (1) In this Part, “designated internet programme service” means—
- an internet programme service provided by the BBC,
 - an internet programme service provided by a public service broadcaster other than the BBC and designated by OFCOM under [subsection \(2\)](#) for the purposes of this Part, or
 - an internet programme service provided by a person associated with a public service broadcaster and designated by OFCOM as described in [paragraph \(b\)](#).
- (2) OFCOM may designate an internet programme service provided by a public service broadcaster other than the BBC or a person associated with a public service broadcaster if—
- the service satisfies the conditions in [subsection \(3\)](#), [\(4\)](#) or [\(5\)](#) that apply to it; and
 - OFCOM consider that it is appropriate to designate the service.

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- (3) The conditions in the case of an internet programme service provided by the provider of a licensed public service channel or a person associated with the provider of that licensed public service channel are—
- (a) that the service makes or would, if designated, be capable of making—
 - (i) a significant contribution to the fulfilment of the public service remit for that licensed public service channel, or
 - (ii) in a case where the provider of the service is, in relation to two or more licensed public service channels, either the provider of, or a person associated with the provider of, the channels, a significant contribution to the fulfilment of the public service remit for at least one of those licensed public service channels; and
 - (b) that the public service remit content included in the service is readily discoverable and is promoted by the service.
- (4) The conditions in the case of an internet programme service provided by S4C or a person associated with S4C are—
- (a) that the service makes or would, if designated, be capable of making a significant contribution to the fulfilment of S4C’s public service remit; and
 - (b) that the public service remit content included in the service is readily discoverable and is promoted by the service.
- (5) The conditions in the case of an internet programme service provided by a person associated with the BBC are—
- (a) that the service makes or would, if designated, be capable of making a significant contribution to the promotion of one or more of the BBC’s public purposes; and
 - (b) that the material contributing to the promotion of one or more of those purposes which is included in the service is readily discoverable and is promoted by the service.
- (6) In considering whether an internet programme service provided by a person other than the BBC satisfies the conditions in [subsection \(3\)](#), [\(4\)](#) or [\(5\)](#) that apply to it, OFCOM must have regard to any statement for the time being published by OFCOM under [section 362AC](#).
- (7) In considering whether it is appropriate to designate an internet programme service provided by a public service broadcaster other than the BBC or a person associated with such a broadcaster, OFCOM must have regard, in particular, to the following matters—
- (a) any proposals included in any such public service broadcaster’s latest statement of programme policy published under section 266 or 267 or paragraph 4 of Schedule 12 as to the contribution that the internet programme service will make towards fulfilling the public service remit for its licensed public service channel or (as the case may be) S4C’s public service remit;
 - (b) whether that proposed contribution is capable of satisfying the needs and interests of—
 - (i) a specific audience, in a case where the service would, if designated, be the second or further designated internet programme service provided by a public service broadcaster or a person associated with that broadcaster, or
 - (ii) a wide range of audiences, in any other case;

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- (c) in relation to any such public service broadcaster whose public service remit content is included in the internet programme service, how effective and efficient is the broadcaster’s monitoring of its performance so far as relating to the fulfilment of the public service remit for its licensed public service channel or (as the case may be) S4C’s public service remit.
- (8) In considering whether it is appropriate to designate an internet programme service provided by a person associated with the BBC, OFCOM must have regard, in particular, to the following matters—
- (a) any proposals included in a statement of policy made by the BBC in pursuance of the BBC Charter and Agreement as to the contribution that the service will make towards the promotion of one or more of the BBC’s public purposes;
 - (b) whether that proposed contribution is capable of satisfying the needs and interests of—
 - (i) a specific audience, in a case where the service would, if designated, be the second or further designated internet programme service provided by the BBC or a person associated with the BBC, or
 - (ii) a wide range of audiences, in any other case;
 - (c) how effective and efficient is the BBC’s monitoring of the contribution of persons associated with the BBC to the promotion of one or more of the BBC’s public purposes.
- (9) Before designating an internet programme service, OFCOM must consult—
- (a) the provider of the service;
 - (b) such other persons as OFCOM consider appropriate.
- (10) In this Part, a reference to an internet programme service is a reference to—
- (a) an on-demand programme service where the programmes viewed by a user of the service are accessed by the user by means of the internet,
 - (b) a non-UK on-demand programme service where the programmes viewed by a user of the service are accessed by the user by means of the internet, or
 - (c) a service which satisfies the requirements in [subsection \(11\)](#).
- (11) The requirements are—
- (a) that the principal purpose of the service is the provision of programmes,
 - (b) that the programmes viewed by a user of the service are accessed by the user by means of the internet, and
 - (c) that the programmes it provides to a user of the service are contained in—
 - (i) such on-demand programme service as is described in [subsection \(10\)\(a\)](#) or such non-UK on-demand programme service as is described in [subsection \(10\)\(b\)](#), and
 - (ii) another service which is, or two or more other services each of which is, such an on-demand programme service, such a non-UK on-demand programme service, or a service (other than those kinds of service) that consists of, or has as its principal purpose the provision of, programmes.
- (12) In this section—
- “public service remit”—
 - (a) in relation to a Channel 3 service or Channel 5, has the meaning given by section 265(2);

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- (b) in relation to Channel 4, has the meaning given by section 265(3);
- (c) in relation to S4C, has the meaning given by [section 204A](#);

“public service remit content”, in relation to an internet programme service provided by a public service broadcaster other than the BBC or a person associated with such a broadcaster, means material included in the internet programme service that contributes to the fulfilment of—

- (a) the public service remit for the licensed public service channel in question, or
- (b) S4C’s public service remit (as the case may be).

362AB Revocation of designation

- (1) If an internet programme service provided by a person other than a public service broadcaster is designated under [section 362AA\(2\)](#), the designation is revoked on the person ceasing to be associated with—
 - (a) if the person is associated with only one public service broadcaster, that public service broadcaster, or
 - (b) if the person is associated with more than one public service broadcaster, all of those public service broadcasters.
- (2) OFCOM may give notice under [subsection \(3\)](#) to a person other than the BBC who provides a designated internet programme service if OFCOM consider that there are reasonable grounds for believing that—
 - (a) a designated internet programme service provided by that person is not making such contribution as is described in [subsection \(3\)\(a\)](#), [subsection \(4\)\(a\)](#) or (as the case may be) [subsection \(5\)\(a\)](#) of [section 362AA](#),
 - (b) the content included in the service which is of the description referred to in [subsection \(3\)\(b\)](#), [subsection \(4\)\(b\)](#) or (as the case may be) [subsection \(5\)\(b\)](#) of [section 362AA](#) is not readily discoverable or is not promoted by the service, or
 - (c) the service is not a service that it would be appropriate for OFCOM to designate under [section 362AA\(2\)](#).
- (3) A notice under this subsection must—
 - (a) state that OFCOM consider that there are reasonable grounds for believing the matter in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of [subsection \(2\)](#);
 - (b) give OFCOM’s reasons for that opinion;
 - (c) give OFCOM’s reasons for proposing to revoke the designation of the internet programme service;
 - (d) state that the person may make representations to OFCOM about the matters contained in the notice;
 - (e) specify the period within which such representations may be made.
- (4) Where the period allowed for representations has expired, OFCOM must, after considering any representations that have been made—
 - (a) decide whether or not to revoke the designation, and
 - (b) give notice to the person of their decision.
- (5) Where OFCOM decide to revoke a designation, a notice under [subsection \(4\)\(b\)](#) must—

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- (a) state that OFCOM are satisfied as to the matter in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of [subsection \(2\)](#);
 - (b) give OFCOM’s reasons for being so satisfied.
- (6) In considering whether there are reasonable grounds for believing the matter in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of [subsection \(2\)](#) or whether they are satisfied as to that matter, OFCOM must have regard to any statement for the time being published by OFCOM under [section 362AC](#).
- (7) OFCOM must revoke a designation of an internet programme service under [section 362AA\(2\)](#) if the person providing the service requests them to do so.

362AC Statement relating to designation functions

- (1) OFCOM must prepare and publish a statement providing—
- (a) information about the methods applied in determining the matters in sections [362AA\(3\)](#), [\(4\)](#) and [\(5\)](#) and [362AB\(2\)](#), and
 - (b) such other information relating to the determination of those matters as OFCOM consider appropriate.
- (2) OFCOM may revise or replace a statement published under this section and, where they do so, must publish the revised or replacement statement.

362AD Notifications in relation to designated internet programme services

- (1) Where an internet programme service provided by a person associated with a public service broadcaster has been designated under [section 362AA\(2\)](#), the person must give notice to OFCOM if the person ceases to be a person associated with that public service broadcaster.
- (2) A notice given to OFCOM under this section must—
- (a) be sent in such manner as OFCOM may require;
 - (b) contain such information as OFCOM may require.

Regulated television selection services

362AE Meaning of “television selection service”

- (1) In this Part, “television selection service” means a service or a dissociable section of a service, provided by means of the internet and in connection with internet television equipment, which consists of—
- (a) the presentation of the internet programme services included in the service or the dissociable section of the service, and
 - (b) a facility that enables the user—
 - (i) to make a selection between those services or between programmes provided by those services or both, and
 - (ii) to access the service selected or the programme selected or both.
- (2) In [subsection \(1\)](#), “internet television equipment” means any apparatus or combination of apparatus specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State setting out the descriptions of apparatus or combinations of apparatus that are internet television equipment for the purposes of this Part.

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- (3) Regulations made by virtue of [subsection \(2\)](#) may—
- (a) provide for references to internet television equipment to include references to software used in association with apparatus, and
 - (b) describe apparatus or a combination of apparatus by reference to software used in association with the apparatus or any of it.
- (4) Exceptions in regulations made by virtue of [subsection \(2\)](#) may include exceptions relating to the purpose or purposes for which a description of apparatus may be used in addition to the purpose of viewing internet programme services.
- (5) The person, and the only person, who is to be treated for the purposes of this Part as providing a television selection service is the person who has general control over the manner in which the service presents to its users the internet programme services that are included in the service.
- (6) The fact that a television selection service relies to any extent on algorithms to determine the prominence given to—
- (a) an internet programme service included in the service, or
 - (b) any programme provided by an internet programme service included in the service,
- does not prevent a person from having general control as described in [subsection \(5\)](#).
- (7) The Secretary of State may by regulations—
- (a) amend this section so as to alter the definition of “television selection service” or “internet television equipment”, and
 - (b) make such amendments or repeals of any provision of this Act or any other Act as appear to the Secretary of State to be expedient in consequence of the amendments made by virtue of [paragraph \(a\)](#).
- (8) A statutory instrument containing regulations under [subsection \(7\)](#) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

362AF Meaning of “regulated television selection service”

- (1) In this Part, “regulated television selection service” means a television selection service which—
- (a) is for the time being designated by regulations made by the Secretary of State, or
 - (b) is of a description specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The Secretary of State may not exercise the power under [subsection \(1\)\(a\)](#) so as to cause a television selection service to become a regulated television selection service unless the Secretary of State considers that the service is used by a significant number of members of the public in the United Kingdom.
- (3) Regulations under [subsection \(1\)\(b\)](#) may, in particular, frame a description of television selection services by reference to—
- (a) a television selection service being used, or being used in a manner specified in the regulations, by no fewer than such number of members of the public in the United Kingdom as may be specified in the regulations;

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- (b) the date on which a television selection service is first made available to members of the public in the United Kingdom;
 - (c) the functions that a television selection service is capable of carrying out or may be made capable of carrying out.
- (4) Before making regulations under [subsection \(1\)\(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#), the Secretary of State must have received a report under [section 362AG](#) relating to the television selection service or description of television selection services in question.

362AG Advice from OFCOM

- (1) OFCOM may prepare reports making recommendations about the exercise of the power under [section 362AF\(1\)\(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#).
- (2) Where—
- (a) the Secretary of State proposes to make regulations under [section 362AF\(1\)\(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#), and
 - (b) the Secretary of State has not received a report under [subsection \(1\)](#) relating to the television selection service or description of television selection services that would be affected by the proposed regulations,
- the Secretary of State must request OFCOM to prepare a report making recommendations about the exercise of the power under [section 362AF\(1\)\(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#) in relation to that service or services of that description.
- (3) Where the Secretary of State makes a request under [subsection \(2\)](#), OFCOM must prepare such a report as soon as practicable.
- (4) A report under [subsection \(1\)](#) or [\(3\)](#) relating to the exercise of the power under [section 362AF\(1\)\(a\)](#) must include OFCOM's assessment of—
- (a) the number of members of the public in the United Kingdom using that service and whether that number is significant;
 - (b) the manner in which that service is used by such persons;
 - (c) whether that service is capable of functioning as a regulated television selection service and the modifications, if any, that are needed to make it so capable;
 - (d) such matters as OFCOM consider likely to affect the matters referred to in paragraphs [\(a\)](#) to [\(c\)](#).
- (5) A report under [subsection \(1\)](#) or [\(3\)](#) relating to the exercise of the power under [section 362AF\(1\)\(b\)](#) must include OFCOM's assessment of—
- (a) which television selection services are likely to fall within the description of television selection services in question;
 - (b) such matters as OFCOM consider relevant to the assessment described in paragraph [\(a\)](#).
- (6) OFCOM must give the Secretary of State a report prepared under [subsection \(1\)](#) or [\(3\)](#).
- (7) If the Secretary of State exercises the power under [section 362AF\(1\)\(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#) in a manner which differs materially from recommendations made in a report under this section, the Secretary of State must publish, no later than the time at which the regulations are made, a statement giving the Secretary of State's reasons for doing so.
- (8) OFCOM must publish reports given to the Secretary of State under this section.

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- (9) OFCOM must prepare and publish a statement about the principles and methods applied by OFCOM in preparing a report under [subsection \(1\)](#) or [\(3\)](#).
- (10) OFCOM may revise or replace a statement published under this section and, where they do so, must publish the revised or replacement statement.

Notification by providers of television selection services

362AH Notification by providers of television selection services

- (1) A provider of a television selection service must give notice to OFCOM if the service is or becomes a television selection service of a description specified in regulations made by virtue of [section 362AF\(1\)\(b\)](#).
- (2) A provider of a television selection service must give notice to OFCOM if, having been a service of a description specified in regulations made by virtue of [section 362AF\(1\)\(b\)](#), the service ceases to be a service of such a description.
- (3) A provider of a regulated television selection service must give notice to OFCOM if the provider ceases to provide that service.
- (4) A notice given to OFCOM under this section must—
 - (a) be sent in such manner as OFCOM may require;
 - (b) contain such information as OFCOM may require.

Lists of services

362AI Lists of services

- (1) OFCOM must establish and maintain up to date lists of—
 - (a) designated internet programme services; and
 - (b) regulated television selection services and their providers.
- (2) OFCOM must publish the up to date lists on a publicly accessible part of their website.

Must-offer and must-carry obligations

362AJ Must-offer obligations in the case of designated internet programme services

- (1) The provider of a designated internet programme service must at all times offer the service as available (subject to the need to agree terms) to be, in relation to every regulated television selection service, included in the regulated television selection service.
- (2) The provider of a designated internet programme service must do its best to secure that, in relation to every regulated television selection service, arrangements are entered into, and kept in force, that ensure that the service is included in the regulated television selection service.
- (3) The provider of a designated internet programme service must act consistently with the agreement objectives when entering into such arrangements and while they are in force.

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- (4) Subsections (1) to (3) do not apply where the provider of a designated internet programme service is the BBC.

362AK Must-carry obligations

- (1) The provider of a regulated television selection service must—
- (a) in respect of each designated internet programme service, enter into arrangements with the provider of the designated internet programme service for the regulated television selection service to include that designated internet programme service, and
 - (b) keep them in force.
- (2) The provider of a regulated television selection service must act consistently with the agreement objectives when entering into arrangements in pursuance of [subsection \(1\)](#) and while they are in force.
- (3) For provision applying where there is a dispute about the arrangements that should be made or their operation, see sections [362AT](#) to [362AY](#).

362AL Guidance as regards agreement objectives

- (1) OFCOM must prepare and publish guidance about how providers of designated internet programme services and providers of regulated television selection services may act consistently with the agreement objectives.
- (2) The reference in [subsection \(1\)](#) to acting consistently with the agreement objectives is to be treated, in relation to the BBC, as a reference to carrying out any duty of the BBC under the BBC Charter and Agreement that is comparable to the duty of providers of designated internet programme services other than the BBC under [section 362AJ\(3\)](#).
- (3) OFCOM may revise and replace any guidance published under this section and, where they do, must publish the revised or replacement guidance.
- (4) Before preparing guidance under this section (or revising or replacing it), OFCOM must consult—
- (a) the Secretary of State, and
 - (b) such other persons as they consider appropriate.
- (5) In exercising or deciding whether to exercise any of their powers under sections [362AU](#) to [362AX](#), OFCOM must have regard to any guidance for the time being published under this section.

362AM Meaning of “the agreement objectives”

- (1) In sections [362AJ](#) to [362AL](#) “the agreement objectives” are—
- (a) that a designated internet programme service is given an appropriate degree of prominence within a regulated television selection service;
 - (b) that, in a case where a designated internet programme service contributes to—
 - (i) the fulfilment of the public service remit for a licensed public service channel,
 - (ii) the fulfilment of S4C’s public service remit, or
 - (iii) the promotion of one or more of the BBC’s public purposes,

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the arrangements made between the provider of that designated internet programme service and the provider of a regulated television selection service do not adversely affect the ability of the provider of that channel to fulfil the public service remit for that channel, the ability of S4C to fulfil S4C's public service remit or (as the case may be) the ability of the BBC to promote its public purposes;

- (c) that arrangements so made do not disproportionately restrict how the provider of a regulated television selection service may make innovations in the ways that users may select and access internet programme services or programmes included in such services.
- (2) The reference in [subsection \(1\)\(a\)](#) to a designated internet programme service being given an appropriate degree of prominence within a regulated television selection service includes a reference to an appropriate degree of prominence being given to public service remit content and any listed channel included in that designated internet programme service, so far as the prominence of that content or channel is capable of being affected by the operation of the regulated television selection service.
- (3) The following are listed channels for the purposes of this section—
- (a) any service of television programmes provided by the BBC so as to be available for use by members of the public;
 - (b) any Channel 3 service;
 - (c) Channel 4;
 - (d) Channel 5;
 - (e) S4C Digital.

Duties relating to a designated internet programme service

362AN Duties relating to a designated internet programme service

- (1) The provider of a designated internet programme service must ensure that—
- (a) the service makes such contribution as is described in [subsection \(3\)\(a\)](#), [subsection \(4\)\(a\)](#) or (as the case may be) [subsection \(5\)\(a\)](#) of [section 362AA](#), and
 - (b) such material included in the service as is described in [subsection \(3\)\(b\)](#), [subsection \(4\)\(b\)](#) or (as the case may be) [subsection \(5\)\(b\)](#) of [section 362AA](#) is readily discoverable and is promoted by the service.
- (2) [Subsection \(1\)](#) does not apply where the provider of a designated internet programme service is the BBC.

Duties relating to a regulated television selection service

362AO Duties relating to a regulated television selection service

- (1) A provider of a regulated television selection service must secure that the manner in which its service presents internet programme services to its users in the United Kingdom gives an appropriate degree of prominence to each of the designated internet programme services included in its service.

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- (2) Subsection (1) does not require that a designated internet programme service be given prominence, or the same degree of prominence, in relation to every area of the United Kingdom.
- (3) The reference in subsection (1) to giving an appropriate degree of prominence to a designated internet programme service included in a regulated television selection service includes a reference to giving an appropriate degree of prominence to—
 - (a) material that is public service remit content or contributes to the promotion of one or more of the BBC’s public purposes included in that designated internet programme service, and
 - (b) any listed channel included in that designated internet programme service, so far as the prominence of that material or channel is affected by the operation of the regulated television selection service.
- (4) A provider of a regulated television selection service must incorporate features in the service that secure that persons with disabilities, in particular those affecting their sight or hearing or both—
 - (a) are able, so far as practicable, to make use of the service for all the same purposes as persons without disabilities; and
 - (b) are informed about, and are able to make use of, whatever assistance for disabled people is provided in relation to the internet programme services included in the service.
- (5) In this section “assistance for disabled people” has the same meaning as in Part 3 (see section 362(1)).

362AP Code of practice

- (1) OFCOM must issue a code of practice describing actions that OFCOM recommend for the purpose of securing that the manner in which a regulated television selection service presents internet programme services to its users complies with the duties in [section 362AO](#).
- (2) OFCOM may—
 - (a) revise a code of practice issued under this section and issue the code as revised;
 - (b) withdraw a code of practice issued under this section and issue a new code of practice.
- (3) OFCOM must—
 - (a) publish a code of practice issued under this section in such manner as they consider appropriate;
 - (b) keep a code of practice issued under this section under review.
- (4) If requested by the Secretary of State to review all or part of a code of practice issued under this section, OFCOM must review the code or that part of it.
- (5) OFCOM must secure that the actions recommended in a code of practice issued under this section are consistent with the agreement objectives.
- (6) The actions recommended in a code of practice issued under this section may include—
 - (a) actions relating to particular descriptions of regulated television selection services;

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- (b) actions relating to particular descriptions of internet programme services.

362AQ Effects of the code of practice

- (1) The provider of a regulated television selection service is to be treated as complying with the duty in [section 362AO\(1\)](#) or [\(4\)](#) if the provider takes the actions described in the code of practice which are recommended for the purpose of complying with the duty.
- (2) A failure by the provider of a regulated television selection service to act in accordance with a provision of the code of practice does not of itself make the provider liable to legal proceedings before a court or tribunal.
- (3) In any legal proceedings before a court or tribunal, the court or tribunal must take into account a provision of the code of practice in determining any question arising in the proceedings if—
 - (a) the question relates to a time when the provision was in force, and
 - (b) the provision appears to the court or tribunal to be relevant to the question.
- (4) OFCOM must take into account a provision of the code of practice in determining any question arising in connection with the carrying out by them of a relevant function if—
 - (a) the question relates to a time when the provision was in force, and
 - (b) the provision appears to OFCOM to be relevant to the question.
- (5) In this section, “relevant function” means a function conferred on OFCOM by any of the following provisions—
 - (a) sections [362AT](#) to [362AY](#) (references of disputes to OFCOM), and
 - (b) sections [362AZ](#) to [362AZ5](#) (enforcement).

362AR Issuing a code of practice

- (1) Before issuing a code of practice under [section 362AP](#), OFCOM—
 - (a) must publish a draft of the code or (as the case may be) a draft of the revisions of the existing code;
 - (b) must consult the following about the draft—
 - (i) the Secretary of State;
 - (ii) public service broadcasters;
 - (iii) such persons who appear to OFCOM to represent providers of regulated television selection services;
 - (iv) such other persons as OFCOM consider appropriate;
 - (c) may make such alterations to the draft as OFCOM consider appropriate following the consultation.
- (2) Subsection [\(1\)](#) does not apply in relation to revisions of the code of practice if—
 - (a) OFCOM give the Secretary of State a draft of the revisions of the existing code, and
 - (b) the Secretary of State agrees that it is not necessary for [subsection \(1\)](#) to apply in relation to the revisions.

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Power to require information

362AS Power to require information

- (1) OFCOM may by notice (an “information notice”) require a person within [subsection \(4\)](#) to provide them with any information that they require for the purpose of carrying out their functions under this Part.
- (2) The power conferred by [subsection \(1\)](#) includes power to require a person within [subsection \(4\)](#) to obtain or generate information.
- (3) The power conferred by [subsection \(1\)](#) must be exercised in a way that is proportionate to the use to which the information is to be put by OFCOM.
- (4) The persons within this subsection are—
 - (a) a public service broadcaster;
 - (b) a provider of an internet programme service;
 - (c) a provider of a television selection service;
 - (d) a person who provides an ancillary service in relation to an internet programme service or a television selection service;
 - (e) a manufacturer of apparatus that is, or in combination with other apparatus is, internet television equipment;
 - (f) a person who creates or provides software used in association with such apparatus;
 - (g) a person who was within any of paragraphs (a) to (f) at a time to which the required information relates;
 - (h) a person who is not within any of paragraphs (a) to (g) but who appears to OFCOM to have, or to be able to obtain or generate, information required by them as mentioned in [subsection \(1\)](#).
- (5) The information that OFCOM may require under [subsection \(1\)](#) includes, in particular, information that they require for any one or more of the following purposes—
 - (a) the purpose of deciding whether to designate an internet programme service for the purposes of this Part or to revoke such a designation;
 - (b) the purpose of assessing compliance with [section 362AD\(1\)](#) (duty to notify OFCOM where cease to be associated with a public service broadcaster);
 - (c) the purpose of preparing a report under [section 362AG](#) (advice from OFCOM about the designation of television selection services etc);
 - (d) the purpose of assessing compliance with [section 362AH](#) (duty of providers of television selection services to notify OFCOM);
 - (e) the purpose of assessing compliance with any duty of a provider of a designated internet programme service under [section 362AJ](#) or [362AN](#) (must-offer and content of designated internet programme services obligations);
 - (f) the purpose of assessing compliance with any duty of the BBC under the BBC Charter and Agreement that is comparable to any duty of a provider of a designated internet programme service under [section 362AJ](#) or [362AN](#);
 - (g) the purpose of assessing compliance with any duty of a provider of a regulated television selection service under [section 362AK](#) or [362AO](#) (must-carry and prominence obligations);
 - (h) the purpose of preparing or reviewing a code of practice under [section 362AP](#) (code of practice relating to duties under [section 362AO](#));

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- (i) the purpose of OFCOM’s functions under sections [362AT](#) to [362AY](#) (dispute resolution);
 - (j) the purpose of assessing compliance with any requirements imposed by a confirmation decision under [section 362AZ1](#);
 - (k) the purpose of determining the appropriate fee that a provider is required to pay under [section 362AZ6](#);
 - (l) the purpose of OFCOM’s monitoring role under [section 362AZ9](#);
 - (m) the purpose of ascertaining the amount of a person’s or a group of entities’ qualifying worldwide revenue for the purposes of [paragraph 3](#) or [4](#) of [Schedule 16A](#).
- (6) An information notice must—
- (a) specify or describe the information to be provided,
 - (b) specify why OFCOM require the information,
 - (c) specify the form and manner in which the information must be provided, and
 - (d) contain information about the consequences of not complying with the notice.
- (7) An information notice must specify when the information must be provided which may be—
- (a) on or by a specified date, or
 - (b) within a specified period.
- (8) The power conferred by [subsection \(1\)](#) does not include power to require the provision of information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege, or (in Scotland) to confidentiality of communications, could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- (9) A person to whom an information notice is given must provide the information in accordance with any requirements included in the notice (subject to [subsection \(10\)](#)).
- (10) The duty under [subsection \(9\)](#) does not require a disclosure of information if that disclosure would contravene the data protection legislation (but, in determining whether a disclosure would do so, that duty is to be taken into account).
- (11) For the purposes of [subsection \(4\)\(d\)](#), a service is an “ancillary service” in relation to an internet programme service or a television selection service if it facilitates the provision of that service (or part of it), whether directly or indirectly.
- (12) In this section, a reference to the functions of OFCOM under this Part includes a reference to their functions under [Schedules 16A](#) and [16B](#), so far as relating to this Part.
- (13) In this section, “data protection legislation” has the same meaning as in the Data Protection Act 2018 (see section 3 of that Act).

References of disputes to OFCOM

362AT References of disputes to OFCOM

- (1) This section applies in the case of a dispute between the provider of a designated internet programme service and the provider of a regulated television selection service about—

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- (a) the arrangements that should be made between them in order to give effect to the prominence duties that relate to them, or
 - (b) the operation of arrangements made between them in order to give effect to those duties.
- (2) For the purposes of [subsection \(1\)](#)—
- (a) the prominence duties relating to the provider of a designated internet programme service are—
 - (i) in the case of a provider other than the BBC, the duties under [section 362AJ](#);
 - (ii) in the case of the BBC, any duties of the BBC under the BBC Charter and Agreement that are comparable to the duties of other providers under [section 362AJ](#);
 - (b) the prominence duties relating to the provider of a regulated television selection service are the duties under sections [362AK](#) and [362AO\(1\)](#).
- (3) Any one or more of the parties to the dispute may refer it to OFCOM but only if (and when) there is no realistic prospect of resolving the dispute without referring it.
- (4) OFCOM may invite any one or more of the parties to the dispute to make a reference under [subsection \(3\)](#).
- (5) OFCOM—
- (a) may impose requirements about the manner in which a reference must be made by publishing a notice setting out those requirements,
 - (b) may withdraw or modify any requirements that have been imposed by publishing a further notice, and
 - (c) in exercising their powers under [paragraph \(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#), may make different provision for different cases.
- (6) OFCOM may publish a notice under [subsection \(5\)](#) in such ways as they consider appropriate for bringing the notice to the attention of those who, in their opinion, are likely to be affected by it.

362AU Action by OFCOM on reference of dispute

- (1) This section applies where—
- (a) a dispute is referred to OFCOM under [section 362AT\(3\)](#), and
 - (b) any requirements imposed by OFCOM under [section 362AT\(5\)](#) are met in relation to the reference.
- (2) OFCOM must decide whether or not it is appropriate for them to handle the dispute.
- (3) [Subsection \(4\)](#) applies where—
- (a) the dispute is of the kind described in [section 362AT\(1\)\(a\)](#) (disputes between the provider of a designated internet programme service and the provider of a regulated television selection service about the arrangements that should be made between them for the purposes of their prominence duties), and
 - (b) unless the dispute is resolved, it is highly likely that the designated internet programme service will—
 - (i) not be included in the regulated television selection service, or
 - (ii) not be given the appropriate degree of prominence within it.

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- (4) OFCOM must decide that it is appropriate for them to handle the dispute unless they consider—
 - (a) that there are alternative means available for resolving the dispute,
 - (b) that a resolution by those means is likely to result in an outcome that is consistent with the agreement objectives, and
 - (c) that a prompt and satisfactory resolution of the dispute is likely if those alternative means are used.
- (5) As soon as reasonably practicable after OFCOM have decided whether or not it is appropriate for them to handle the dispute, they must inform each of the parties to the dispute of—
 - (a) their decision and the date on which it was made, and
 - (b) their reasons for it.
- (6) Where OFCOM decide that it is not appropriate for them to handle the dispute, the dispute may subsequently be referred back to OFCOM by one or more of the parties if—
 - (a) the parties have used alternative means for resolving the dispute but it has not been resolved within a reasonable period of time, or
 - (b) the parties have not used alternative means for resolving the dispute but OFCOM consider that there is a satisfactory explanation for that.

362AV Interim measures

- (1) This section applies where—
 - (a) OFCOM decide under [section 362AU\(2\)](#) whether or not it is appropriate for them to handle a dispute, or
 - (b) a dispute is referred back to OFCOM under [section 362AU\(6\)](#).
- (2) OFCOM may do one or more of the following—
 - (a) make an interim declaration setting out the rights and obligations of the parties to the dispute;
 - (b) give an interim direction fixing the terms or conditions of transactions between the parties to the dispute;
 - (c) give an interim direction imposing an obligation on the parties to the dispute, and enforceable by them, to enter into a transaction between themselves on the terms and conditions fixed by OFCOM.
- (3) OFCOM must exercise their powers under [subsection \(2\)](#) in the way that seems to them to be most appropriate in the light of the agreement objectives.
- (4) Before exercising their powers under [subsection \(2\)](#), OFCOM must—
 - (a) give the parties to the dispute an opportunity to make representations about the exercise of those powers, and
 - (b) consider those representations.
- (5) In other respects, the procedure to be followed by OFCOM in connection with the exercise of their powers under [subsection \(2\)](#) is to be the procedure that OFCOM consider appropriate.

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- (6) In the case of a dispute referred back to OFCOM under [section 362AU\(6\)](#), OFCOM may, in exercising their powers under [subsection \(2\)](#), take account of decisions already made by others in the course of an attempt to resolve that dispute by alternative means.
- (7) OFCOM must withdraw an interim declaration or an interim direction if requested to do so by the parties to the dispute.
- (8) OFCOM may withdraw an interim declaration or an interim direction otherwise than at the request of the parties to the dispute if they consider that it is appropriate to do so in the light of the agreement objectives.
- (9) An interim declaration or an interim direction binds the parties to the dispute (unless withdrawn by OFCOM or ceasing to have effect under [section 362AY\(4\)](#)).
- (10) In this section—
 - (a) “an interim declaration” means a declaration that has effect until the resolution of the dispute by OFCOM or by any alternative means (unless withdrawn by OFCOM or ceasing to have effect under [section 362AY\(4\)](#));
 - (b) “an interim direction” means a direction that has effect until the resolution of the dispute by OFCOM or by any alternative means (unless withdrawn by OFCOM or ceasing to have effect under [section 362AY\(4\)](#)).

362AW Procedure for resolving disputes

- (1) This section applies where—
 - (a) OFCOM decide under [section 362AU\(2\)](#) that it is appropriate for them to handle a dispute, or
 - (b) a dispute is referred back to OFCOM under [section 362AU\(6\)](#).
- (2) OFCOM must—
 - (a) consider the dispute, and
 - (b) make a determination for resolving it.
- (3) The procedure for the consideration and determination of the dispute is to be the procedure that OFCOM consider appropriate.
- (4) In the case of a dispute referred back to OFCOM under [section 362AU\(6\)](#), that procedure may involve allowing the continuation of a procedure that has already begun for resolving the dispute by alternative means.
- (5) Unless there are exceptional circumstances, OFCOM must make their determination before the end of the period of four months beginning with—
 - (a) where OFCOM decide under [section 362AU\(2\)](#) that it is appropriate for them to handle the dispute, the day on which they make that decision;
 - (b) where the dispute is referred back to OFCOM under [section 362AU\(6\)](#), the day on which it is referred back.
- (6) Where it is practicable for OFCOM to make their determination before the end of the period of four months referred to in [subsection \(5\)](#), they must make it as soon in that period as is practicable.
- (7) The requirements of subsections [\(5\)](#) and [\(6\)](#) are subject to [section 362AY\(4\)](#).
- (8) OFCOM must—

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- (a) send a copy of their determination, together with a full statement of their reasons for it, to every party to the dispute, and
 - (b) publish so much of their determination as (having regard, in particular, to the need to preserve commercial confidentiality) they consider it appropriate to publish.
- (9) OFCOM may fulfil their duty under [subsection \(8\)\(b\)](#) in such ways as they consider appropriate for bringing the material that they consider it appropriate to publish to the attention of members of the public.

362AX Resolution of referred disputes

- (1) This section applies where OFCOM make a determination for resolving a dispute under [section 362AW\(2\)](#).
- (2) OFCOM may do one or more of the following—
- (a) make a declaration setting out the rights and obligations of the parties to the dispute;
 - (b) give a direction fixing the terms or conditions of transactions between the parties to the dispute;
 - (c) give a direction imposing an obligation on the parties to the dispute, and enforceable by them, to enter into a transaction between themselves on the terms and conditions fixed by OFCOM;
 - (d) for the purpose of giving effect to a determination by OFCOM of the proper amount of a charge in respect of which amounts have been paid by one of the parties to the dispute to the other, to give a direction, enforceable by the party to whom the sums are to be paid, requiring the payment of sums by way of adjustment of an underpayment or overpayment.
- (3) OFCOM must exercise their powers under [subsection \(2\)](#) in the way that they consider to be the most appropriate for meeting the agreement objectives.
- (4) In the case of a dispute referred back to OFCOM under [section 362AU\(6\)](#)—
- (a) OFCOM may, in making their determination, take account of decisions already made by others in the course of an attempt to resolve that dispute by alternative means, and
 - (b) the determination made by OFCOM may include provision ratifying such decisions.
- (5) Where OFCOM make a determination for resolving a dispute, they may require a party to the dispute—
- (a) to make payments to another party to the dispute in respect of costs and expenses incurred by that other party in consequence of the reference of the dispute to OFCOM or in connection with it;
 - (b) to make payments to OFCOM in respect of costs and expenses incurred by them in dealing with the dispute.
- (6) OFCOM may determine—
- (a) the amount of any costs or expenses required to be paid under [subsection \(5\)\(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#), and
 - (b) when those costs or expenses are to be paid.

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- (7) OFCOM may not require a party to the dispute to make payments to another party or to OFCOM under [subsection \(5\)](#) unless they have considered—
- (a) the conduct of the party before and after the reference to OFCOM (including, in particular, whether any attempts have been made to resolve the dispute), and
 - (b) whether OFCOM have made a decision in the party’s favour in respect of the whole or a part of the dispute.
- (8) A determination made by OFCOM for resolving a dispute referred to them under [section 362AT\(3\)](#), or referred back to them under [section 362AU\(6\)](#), binds the parties to the dispute.

362AY Effect of referrals on legal proceedings

- (1) This section applies where—
- (a) a dispute is referred to OFCOM under [section 362AT\(3\)](#), or
 - (b) a dispute is referred back to OFCOM under [section 362AU\(6\)](#).
- (2) The reference, or reference back, does not prevent the person making it, the other party to the dispute, OFCOM or any other person from bringing, or continuing, any legal proceedings with respect to any of the matters under dispute.
- (3) The reference, or reference back, also does not prevent OFCOM from—
- (a) giving a notification in respect of something that they have reasonable grounds for believing to be a contravention of an obligation imposed by or under an enactment;
 - (b) exercising any of their powers under any enactment in relation to a contravention of an obligation imposed by or under an enactment;
 - (c) taking any other step in preparation for, or with a view to, doing anything mentioned in the preceding paragraphs.
- (4) If, in any legal proceedings with respect to a matter to which a dispute relates, the court orders the handling of the dispute by OFCOM to be stayed or sisted—
- (a) OFCOM are required to make a determination for resolving the dispute only if the stay or sist is lifted or expires,
 - (b) the period during which the stay or sist is in force must be disregarded in determining the period within which OFCOM are required to make a determination, and
 - (c) any interim declaration or interim direction made or given by OFCOM under [section 362AV\(2\)](#) ceases to have effect.
- (5) In this section, “legal proceedings” means civil or criminal proceedings in or before a court.
- (6) [Subsection \(2\)](#) is subject to—
- (a) [section 362AX\(8\)](#), and
 - (b) any agreement to the contrary binding the parties in dispute.

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Enforcement

362AZ Provisional notices of contravention

- (1) OFCOM may give a notice under this section (a “provisional notice of contravention”) to a person if they consider that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the person has failed, or is failing, to comply with—
 - (a) any duty under [section 362AD](#), [362AJ](#) or [362AN](#) (duties of providers of designated internet programme services under this Part), or
 - (b) any duty under [section 362AH](#), [362AK](#) or [362AO](#) (duties of providers of regulated television selection services under this Part).
- (2) OFCOM may also give a provisional notice of contravention to a person to whom an information notice has been given if they consider that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the person has failed, or is failing, to comply with the duty under [section 362AS\(9\)](#).
- (3) A provisional notice of contravention must—
 - (a) specify the duty as regards which (in OFCOM’s opinion) there are reasonable grounds for believing the person has failed, or is failing, to comply, and
 - (b) give OFCOM’s reasons for that opinion.
- (4) A provisional notice of contravention may also specify steps that OFCOM consider the person needs to take in order to—
 - (a) comply with the duty, or
 - (b) remedy the failure to comply with it.
- (5) A provisional notice of contravention may also state that OFCOM propose to impose a penalty on the person and, in such a case, the notice must—
 - (a) give OFCOM’s reasons for proposing to impose the penalty,
 - (b) indicate the amount in sterling of the penalty that is being proposed, and
 - (c) give OFCOM’s reasons for proposing a penalty of that amount, including any aggravating or mitigating factors that OFCOM propose to take into account.
- (6) A provisional notice of contravention must—
 - (a) state that the person may make representations to OFCOM (with any supporting evidence) about the matters contained in the notice, and
 - (b) specify the period within which such representations may be made.
- (7) A provisional notice of contravention may be given in respect of a failure by the same person to comply with more than one duty and, in such a case, the notice may include a proposal to impose a single penalty in respect of some or all of those duties (as an alternative to separate penalties).
- (8) Where a provisional notice of contravention is given in respect of a continuing failure to comply with a duty, the notice—
 - (a) may be given in respect of any period during which the failure has continued,
 - (b) must specify that period, and
 - (c) may include a proposal to impose no more than one penalty in respect of that period.

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- (9) Where a provisional notice of contravention is given to a person in respect of a failure to comply with a duty, a further provisional notice of contravention in respect of a failure to comply with that same duty may be given to that person only—
- (a) in respect of a separate instance of the failure that occurs after the first notice is given,
 - (b) where a period is specified in the first notice in accordance with [subsection \(8\)\(b\)](#), in respect of the continuation of the failure after the end of that period, or
 - (c) if the notice is withdrawn without a confirmation decision under [section 362AZ1](#) having been given to the person in respect of that failure.
- (10) OFCOM may give a provisional notice of contravention to—
- (a) a person who was but is no longer a provider of a regulated television selection service, or
 - (b) a person who was but is no longer a provider of a designated internet programme service,
- if that person was a provider of a regulated television selection service or (as the case may be) a designated internet programme service at the time of the failure to which the notice relates.

362AZ1 Confirmation decisions: general

- (1) This section applies where—
 - (a) OFCOM have given a provisional notice of contravention to a person in relation to a failure to comply with a duty or duties, and
 - (b) the period allowed for representations has expired.
- (2) After considering any representations that have been made (and any supporting evidence), OFCOM must decide whether or not to give the person a further notice under this section (a “confirmation decision”).
- (3) OFCOM may decide to give a person a confirmation decision only if they are satisfied that the person has failed, or has been failing, to comply with the notified duty or (as the case may be) one or more of the notified duties.
- (4) For the purposes of this section and sections [362AZ2](#) and [362AZ3](#), a “notified duty” means a duty specified in the provisional notice of contravention.
- (5) If OFCOM decide not to give a person a confirmation decision (whether because they are not satisfied as described in [subsection \(3\)](#) or for any other reason), they must inform the person of that fact.
- (6) A confirmation decision must—
 - (a) state that OFCOM are satisfied that the person has failed, or has been failing, to comply with one or more notified duties, and
 - (b) give OFCOM’s reasons for being satisfied as described in [paragraph \(a\)](#).
- (7) A confirmation decision may require the person to take such steps as OFCOM consider appropriate for either or both of the following purposes—
 - (a) complying with a notified duty or duties;
 - (b) remedying the failure to comply with that duty or those duties.

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- (8) Where a provisional notice of contravention stated that OFCOM proposed to impose a penalty in relation to a notified duty or (by virtue of [section 362AZ\(7\)](#)) in relation to notified duties, a confirmation decision may require the person to pay a penalty, of an amount in sterling determined by OFCOM, in relation to that duty or (as the case may be) those duties.
- (9) The amount determined by OFCOM under [subsection \(8\)](#) may be greater than the amount indicated in the provisional notice of contravention in accordance with [section 362AZ\(5\)\(b\)](#).
- (10) OFCOM may give a confirmation decision to—
- (a) a person who was but is no longer a provider of a regulated television selection service, or
 - (b) a person who was but is no longer a provider of a designated internet programme service,
- if that person was a provider of a regulated television selection service or (as the case may be) a designated internet programme service at the time of the failure to which the notice relates.

362AZ2 Confirmation decisions: steps

- (1) This section applies where a confirmation decision requires the person to whom it is given to take steps as provided for by [section 362AZ1\(7\)](#).
- (2) The notice must—
- (a) specify the steps that are required and the notified duty or duties to which each relates,
 - (b) give OFCOM’s reasons for requiring those steps to be taken,
 - (c) specify a reasonable period within which each of the steps specified in the notice must be taken, and
 - (d) contain information about the consequences of not taking the steps (including information about further kinds of enforcement action that it would be open to OFCOM to take).
- (3) Where a confirmation decision requires a person to take steps, the person to whom the notice is given has a duty to take those steps.
- (4) The duty under [subsection \(3\)](#) is enforceable in civil proceedings by OFCOM—
- (a) for an injunction;
 - (b) for specific performance of a statutory duty under section 45 of the Court of Session Act 1988;
 - (c) for any other appropriate remedy or relief.

362AZ3 Confirmation decisions: penalties

- (1) This section applies where a confirmation decision imposes one or more penalties (see [section 362AZ1\(8\)](#)).
- (2) In relation to each penalty imposed, the notice must—
- (a) give OFCOM’s reasons for their decision to impose the penalty,
 - (b) specify each notified duty to which the penalty relates,

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- (c) give OFCOM’s reasons for the amount of the penalty, including any aggravating or mitigating factors that OFCOM have taken into account,
 - (d) specify a reasonable period within which the penalty must be paid, and
 - (e) contain information about the consequences of not paying the penalty (including information about the kinds of enforcement action that it would be open to OFCOM to take).
- (3) The period specified under [subsection \(2\)\(d\)](#) for the payment of a penalty must be at least 28 days beginning with the day on which the confirmation decision is given.
- (4) [Schedule 16A](#) contains further provision about the imposition of a penalty by a confirmation decision.

362AZ4 Penalty for failure to comply with confirmation decisions

- (1) This section applies where—
- (a) OFCOM have given a confirmation decision to a person,
 - (b) the notice includes requirements to take steps (as provided for by [section 362AZ1\(7\)](#)), and
 - (c) OFCOM are satisfied that the person has failed to comply with one or more of those requirements.
- (2) OFCOM may give the person a penalty notice.
- (3) A “penalty notice” is a notice requiring a person to pay to OFCOM a penalty of an amount in sterling determined by OFCOM.
- (4) Before giving the person a penalty notice, OFCOM must—
- (a) notify the person that they propose to give a penalty notice in respect of the failure to comply with the confirmation decision, specifying the reasons for their proposal and indicating the amount of the proposed penalty, and
 - (b) give the person an opportunity to make representations to OFCOM (with any supporting evidence) about their proposal.
- (5) A penalty notice must—
- (a) give OFCOM’s reasons for their decision to impose the penalty,
 - (b) state the amount of the penalty,
 - (c) state the reasons for the amount of the penalty, including any aggravating or mitigating factors that OFCOM have taken into account,
 - (d) specify the period within which the penalty must be paid, and
 - (e) contain information about the consequences of not paying the penalty (including information about the further kinds of enforcement action that it would be open to OFCOM to take).
- (6) The period specified under [subsection \(5\)\(d\)](#) must be at least 28 days beginning with the day on which the penalty notice is given.
- (7) [Schedule 16A](#) contains further provision about the imposition of a penalty by a penalty notice.

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362AZ5 Enforcement: guidance

- (1) OFCOM must prepare and publish guidance about the exercise of their powers under sections 362AZ to 362AZ4 and Schedule 16B (so far as relating to this Part).
- (2) The guidance must include the factors that OFCOM will take into account in deciding whether to exercise any of those powers.
- (3) OFCOM may revise or replace any guidance published under this section and, where they do so, must publish the revised or replacement guidance.
- (4) Before preparing guidance under this section (or revising or replacing it), OFCOM must consult—
 - (a) the Secretary of State, and
 - (b) such other persons as they consider appropriate.
- (5) Guidelines prepared by OFCOM under section 392 (amount of penalties) may, so far as relating to penalties imposed by a confirmation decision under section 362AZ1 or a penalty notice under section 362AZ4, be included in the same document as guidance under this section.
- (6) In exercising or deciding whether to exercise any of their powers under sections 362AZ to 362AZ4 and Schedule 16B (so far as relating to this Part), OFCOM must have regard to any guidance for the time being published under this section.

Supplemental provisions of Part 3A

362AZ6 Fees

- (1) OFCOM may require a person other than the BBC or S4C who is—
 - (a) a provider of a designated internet programme service, or
 - (b) a provider of a regulated television selection service,
 to pay to OFCOM a fee of an amount determined by OFCOM.
- (2) The amount of a fee required under subsection (1) must be determined by OFCOM in accordance with a statement of principles prepared and published by them for the purpose of this section.
- (3) Those principles must be such as appear to OFCOM to be likely to secure the following objectives—
 - (a) that, on a year by year basis, the aggregate amount of the fees payable to OFCOM under subsection (1) is sufficient to meet, but does not exceed, the annual cost to OFCOM of carrying out their functions under this Part less an appropriate amount to take into account costs that will be met by fees payable—
 - (i) by the BBC under section 198(4), or
 - (ii) by S4C under section 207(6);
 - (b) that the relationship between the aggregate amount of the fees and the cost to OFCOM of carrying out the functions is transparent;
 - (c) that any fee required is justifiable and proportionate having regard to the circumstances of the person required to pay it.

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- (4) As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, OFCOM must publish a statement of accounts setting out in respect of that year—
 - (a) the aggregate amount of the fees payable under [subsection \(1\)](#) for that year that have been received by OFCOM,
 - (b) the aggregate amount of the fees payable under [subsection \(1\)](#) for that year that remain outstanding and are likely to be paid or recovered, and
 - (c) the costs to them of carrying out their functions under this Part less an appropriate amount to take into account costs that have been or are to be met by fees payable—
 - (i) by the BBC under section 198(4), or
 - (ii) by S4C under section 207(6).
- (5) Any deficit or surplus shown (after applying this subsection for all previous years) by the statement of accounts is to be—
 - (a) carried forward, and
 - (b) taken into account in determining what is required to meet the objective described in [subsection \(3\)\(a\)](#) in relation to the following year.
- (6) OFCOM may repay a person some or all of a fee paid under [subsection \(1\)](#) if—
 - (a) in the case of a fee paid by the provider of a designated internet programme service, OFCOM revoke the designation of an internet programme service provided by that person under [section 362AB](#) at some time during the period to which the fee relates;
 - (b) in the case of a fee paid by the provider of a regulated television selection service—
 - (i) the Secretary of State has revoked the designation of a regulated television selection service provided by that person at some time during the period to which the fee relates, or
 - (ii) the person gives OFCOM a notice under [section 362AH\(2\)](#) or [\(3\)](#) in accordance with [section 362AH\(4\)](#) at some time during the period to which the fee relates.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, OFCOM’s costs of carrying out their functions under this Part during a financial year include their costs of preparing to carry out those functions during that year.
- (8) OFCOM—
 - (a) may revise a statement of principles published by them, and
 - (b) where they do so, must publish the statement as revised.
- (9) Before publishing a statement of principles or a revision of it, OFCOM must consult such persons as they consider appropriate.
- (10) In this section, a reference to the functions of OFCOM under this Part includes a reference to their functions under [Schedules 16A](#) and [16B](#), so far as relating to this Part.
- (11) In this section, “financial year” means a period of 12 months ending on 31 March.

362AZ7 Non-payment of fee

- (1) This section applies if—

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- (a) the provider of a designated internet programme service or regulated television selection service is liable to pay a fee to OFCOM under [section 362AZ6](#), and
 - (b) in OFCOM's opinion, the provider has not paid the full amount of the fee that the provider is liable to pay.
- (2) OFCOM may give the provider a notice under this subsection specifying—
- (a) the outstanding amount of the fee that OFCOM consider the provider is due to pay to them under [section 362AZ6](#), and
 - (b) the period within which the provider must pay it.
- (3) A notice under [subsection \(2\)](#)—
- (a) may relate to fees required on different occasions;
 - (b) may also state that OFCOM propose to impose a penalty on the provider.
- (4) The provider may make representations to OFCOM (with any supporting evidence) about the matters contained in the notice.
- (5) [Subsection \(6\)](#) applies if—
- (a) the notice under [subsection \(2\)](#) stated that OFCOM propose to impose a penalty,
 - (b) the period allowed for representations has expired, and
 - (c) OFCOM are satisfied that an amount of the fee or fees is still due to them.
- (6) OFCOM may give the provider a penalty notice under this subsection requiring the provider to pay to OFCOM a penalty of an amount in sterling determined by OFCOM.
- (7) The penalty may consist of any of the following—
- (a) a single amount;
 - (b) an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate;
 - (c) a combination of a single amount and an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate.
- (8) The penalty notice may impose a penalty of a different kind, of a greater amount or (in the case of a penalty calculated by reference to a daily rate) payable over a longer period than that proposed in the notice about the proposed penalty.
- (9) See [section 362AZ8](#) for information which must be included in notices under this section.
- (10) Nothing in this section affects OFCOM's power to bring proceedings (whether before or after the imposition of a penalty by a notice under [subsection \(6\)](#)) for the recovery of the whole or part of an amount due to OFCOM under [section 362AZ6](#).
- (11) But OFCOM may not bring such proceedings unless a provider has first been given a notice under [subsection \(2\)](#) specifying the amount due to OFCOM.

362AZ8 Information to be included in a notice under [section 362AZ7](#)

- (1) A notice under [section 362AZ7\(2\)](#) stating that OFCOM propose to impose a penalty must—
- (a) state the reasons why OFCOM propose to impose the penalty,

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- (b) state whether OFCOM propose that the penalty should consist of a single amount, an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, or a combination of the two,
 - (c) indicate the amount of the proposed penalty, including (in relation to an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate) the daily rate and how the penalty would be calculated,
 - (d) in relation to an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, specify or describe the period for which OFCOM propose that the amount should be payable,
 - (e) state the reasons for proposing a penalty of that amount, including any aggravating or mitigating factors that OFCOM propose to take into account, and
 - (f) specify the period within which representations in relation to the proposed penalty may be made.
- (2) A penalty notice under [section 362AZ7\(6\)](#) must—
- (a) give OFCOM’s reasons for their decision to impose the penalty,
 - (b) state whether the penalty consists of a single amount, an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, or a combination of the two, and how it is calculated,
 - (c) in relation to a single amount, state that amount,
 - (d) in relation to an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, state the daily rate,
 - (e) state the reasons for the amount of the penalty, including any aggravating or mitigating factors that OFCOM have taken into account,
 - (f) specify a reasonable period within which the penalty must be paid, and
 - (g) contain information about the consequences of not paying the penalty (including information about the further kinds of enforcement action that it would be open to OFCOM to take).
- (3) A penalty notice under [section 362AZ7\(6\)](#) must also specify the amount of the fee that is (in OFCOM’s opinion) due to be paid to OFCOM.
- (4) The period specified under [subsection \(2\)\(f\)](#) for the payment of a single amount must be at least 28 days beginning with the day on which the penalty notice is given.
- (5) [Subsection \(6\)](#) applies in relation to a penalty notice under [section 362AZ7\(6\)](#) that includes a requirement to pay an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate.
- (6) Such a notice must—
- (a) state the date from which the amount begins to be payable, which must not be earlier than the day after the day on which the notice is given;
 - (b) provide for the amount to continue to be payable at the daily rate until—
 - (i) the date on which the full amount of the fee (as specified in the penalty notice) has been paid to OFCOM, or
 - (ii) an earlier date specified in the penalty notice.
- (7) [Schedule 16A](#) contains further provision about the imposition of a penalty by a penalty notice under [section 362AZ7\(6\)](#).

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362AZ9 Monitoring role for OFCOM

OFCOM have the function of obtaining, compiling and keeping under review information about matters which may be relevant to—

- (a) designating or revoking the designation of an internet programme service under [section 362AA](#) or [362AB](#);
- (b) designating or revoking the designation of a television selection service or specifying or ceasing to specify a description of television selection services under [section 362AF](#);
- (c) deciding whether to take enforcement action under this Part and Schedule 16B (so far as relating to this Part).

362AZ10 Notices

- (1) This section applies in relation to a notice that may or must be given by OFCOM to a person under any provision of this Part or Schedule 16B (so far as relating to this Part).
- (2) OFCOM may give a notice to a person by—
 - (a) delivering it by hand to the person,
 - (b) leaving it at the person’s proper address,
 - (c) sending it by post to the person at that address, or
 - (d) sending it by email to that person’s email address.
- (3) A notice to a body corporate may be given to any officer of that body.
- (4) A notice to a partnership may be given to any partner or to a person who has the control or management of the partnership business.
- (5) A notice to an entity that is not a legal person under the law under which it is formed (other than a partnership) may be given to any member of the governing body of the entity.
- (6) In the case of a notice given to a person who is a provider of a regulated television selection service, the person’s proper address for the purposes of paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2), and section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978 in its application to those paragraphs, is any address (within or outside the United Kingdom) at which OFCOM believe, on reasonable grounds, that the notice will come to the attention of the person or (where that person is an entity) any director or other officer of that entity.
- (7) In the case of a notice given to a person other than a provider of a regulated television selection service, a person’s proper address for the purposes of paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2), and section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978 in its application to those paragraphs, is—
 - (a) in the case of an entity, the address of the entity’s registered or principal office;
 - (b) in any other case, the person’s last known address.
- (8) In the case of an entity registered or carrying on business outside the United Kingdom, or with offices outside the United Kingdom, the reference in [subsection \(7\)](#) to its principal office includes—
 - (a) its principal office in the United Kingdom, or
 - (b) if the entity has no office in the United Kingdom, any place in the United Kingdom at which OFCOM believe, on reasonable grounds, that the notice will come to the attention of any director or other officer of that entity.

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- (9) For the purposes of [subsection \(2\)\(d\)](#), a person’s email address is—
- (a) any email address published for the time being by that person as an address for contacting that person, or
 - (b) if there is no such published address, any email address by means of which OFCOM believe, on reasonable grounds, that the notice will come to the attention of that person or (where that person is an entity) any director or other officer of that entity.
- (10) A notice sent by email is treated as given 48 hours after it was sent, unless the contrary is proved.
- (11) In this section—
- “director” includes any person occupying the position of a director, by whatever name called;
 - “officer”, in relation to an entity, includes a director, a manager, a partner, an associate, a secretary or, where the affairs of the entity are managed by its members, a member.

362AZ11 Application of Part 3A

- (1) A duty imposed on a provider of a television selection service by or under this Part applies in relation to that service only so far as it is made available for use by members of the public in the United Kingdom.
- (2) References in this Part to a television selection service include such a service provided from outside the United Kingdom (as well as such a service provided from within the United Kingdom).
- (3) References in this Part to an internet programme service include such a service provided from outside the United Kingdom (as well as such a service provided from within the United Kingdom).
- (4) The power to require the provision of information by an information notice includes power to require the provision of information held outside the United Kingdom.
- (5) Section [362AZ2\(4\)](#) (requirements enforceable in civil proceedings against a person) applies whether or not the person is in the United Kingdom.

362AZ12 Interpretation of Part 3A

- (1) In this Part—
- “the agreement objectives” has the meaning given by [section 362AM](#);
 - “BBC company”, “C4 company” and “S4C company” have the same meaning as in Part 3 (see [section 362](#));
 - “designated internet programme service” has the meaning given by [section 362AA](#);
 - “entity” means a body or association of persons or an organisation, regardless of whether the body, association or organisation is—
 - (a) formed under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, or
 - (b) a legal person under the law under which it is formed;
 - “information notice” has the meaning given by [section 362AS](#);

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- “internet programme service” has the meaning given by [section 362AA](#);
- “licensed public service channel” has the same meaning as in Part 3 (see [section 362](#));
- “listed channel” has the meaning given by [section 362AM](#);
- “programme” means such programme as is described in [section 368ZA](#);
- “provision”—
- (a) in relation to an internet programme service, is to be construed in accordance with [subsection \(2\)](#);
 - (b) in relation to a television selection service, is to be construed in accordance with [section 362AE\(5\)](#);
- “public service broadcaster” has the meaning given by [section 264](#);
- “public service remit” has the meaning given by [section 362AA](#);
- “public service remit content” has the meaning given by [section 362AA](#);
- “regulated television selection service” has the meaning given by [section 362AF](#);
- “television selection service” has the meaning given by [section 362AE](#).
- (2) The person, and the only person, who is to be treated for the purposes of this Part as providing an internet programme service is the person who has general control of the service.
 - (3) In the case of an internet programme service where the programmes provided to a user of the service are contained in a single on-demand programme service, the person with general control of the service is the person who has editorial responsibility for the on-demand programme service (see [section 368A\(4\)](#)).
 - (4) In the case of any other internet programme service, the person with general control of the service is the person who has general control over which—
 - (a) on-demand programme services,
 - (b) non-UK on-demand programme services, and
 - (c) services that fall within [section 362AA\(10\)\(c\)](#),
 are included in the service.
 - (5) For the purposes of this Part—
 - (a) the provision of an internet programme service by the BBC does not include its provision by a BBC company;
 - (b) the provision of an internet programme service by C4C does not include its provision by a C4 company;
 - (c) the provision of an internet programme service by S4C does not include its provision by an S4C company;
 and, accordingly, control that is or is capable of being exercised by the BBC, C4C or S4C over decisions by a BBC company, C4 company or S4C company about what is to be comprised in a service is to be disregarded for the purposes of determining who has general control of the service.
 - (6) For the purposes of this Part, a person (“P”) is associated with a public service broadcaster if, and only if—
 - (a) P is a body corporate which is controlled by the public service broadcaster; or
 - (b) where the public service broadcaster is the provider of a Channel 3 service or Channel 5, P and the public service broadcaster are bodies corporate which are both controlled by the same person.

Changes to legislation: Communications Act 2003, Part 3A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 2026. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (7) In [subsection \(6\)](#) “controlled” has the same meaning as in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1990 Act.
- (8) A reference in this Part to access, in relation to a programme provided by an internet programme service, is a reference to the opportunity of viewing in an intelligible form a programme so provided.
- (9) For the purposes of this Part, a reference to an internet programme service being included in a television selection service is a reference to being one of the internet programme services that are, or whose programmes are, available for selection and access by means of the television selection service.
- (10) The services that are to be taken for the purposes of this Part to be available for use by members of the public include any service which—
- (a) is made available for use only by persons who subscribe to the service (whether for a period or in relation to a particular occasion) or who otherwise request its provision, but
 - (b) is a service the facility of subscribing to which, or of otherwise requesting its provision, is offered or made available to members of the public.]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 362AZ12(6) applied by 1996 c. 55, [s. 98\(2D\)](#) (as substituted (23.8.2024 for specified purposes) by [Media Act 2024 \(c. 15\)](#), [ss. 20\(2\)](#), [55\(3\)\(a\)](#) (with [s. 25\(1\)](#)); S.I. 2024/858, [reg. 3](#), [Sch.](#))
- C2** S. 362AZ12(6) applied (17.10.2024 for specified purposes) by 1990 c. 42, [s. 18A\(5\)](#) (as inserted by [Media Act 2024 \(c. 15\)](#), [ss. 19\(3\)](#), [55\(3\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 2024/1033, [reg. 2](#))
- C3** S. 362AZ12(6) applied (17.10.2024 for specified purposes, 1.1.2026 in so far as not already in force) by 1990 c. 42, [s. 18A\(5\)](#) (as inserted by [Media Act 2024 \(c. 15\)](#), [ss. 19\(3\)](#), [55\(3\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 2024/1033, [reg. 2](#); S.I. 2025/1049, [reg. 3\(q\)](#))

Changes to legislation:

Communications Act 2003, Part 3A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 2026. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 148A and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 46 s. 73\(2\)](#)
- s. 368E(5)(d)(e) inserted by [2017 c. 30 s. 94\(3\)](#)
- s. 402(2A)(za)(zb) inserted by [2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 2](#)
- Sch. 3A Pt. 4ZA inserted by [2022 c. 46 s. 67\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 103(1)(ca) inserted by [2022 c. 46 s. 70](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 119A inserted by [2022 c. 46 s. 72](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 21(6) inserted by [2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 37(3)(aza) inserted by [2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3\(9\)](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 84(1)(aza) inserted by [2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3\(10\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 148A and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 46 s. 73\(2\)](#)
- s. 368E(5)(d)(e) inserted by [2017 c. 30 s. 94\(3\)](#)
- s. 402(2A)(za)(zb) inserted by [2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 2](#)
- Sch. 3A Pt. 4ZA inserted by [2022 c. 46 s. 67\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 103(1)(ca) inserted by [2022 c. 46 s. 70](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 119A inserted by [2022 c. 46 s. 72](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 21(6) inserted by [2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 37(3)(aza) inserted by [2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3\(9\)](#)
- Sch. 3A para. 84(1)(aza) inserted by [2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3\(10\)](#)

Designation of Television Selection Services

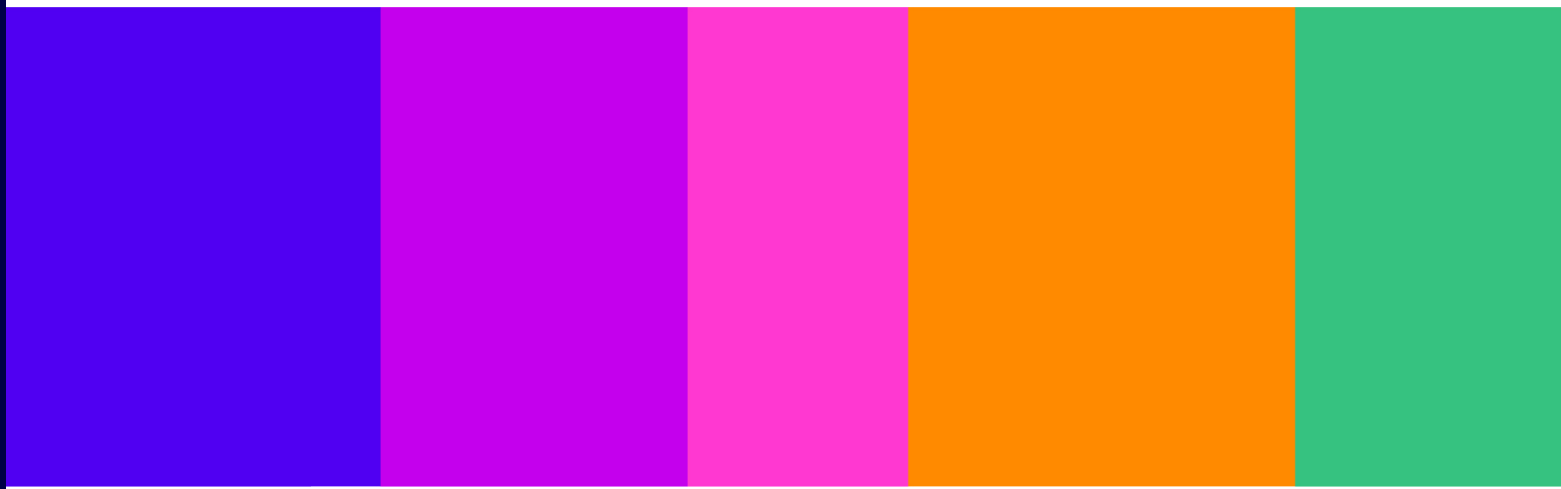
Final report to the Secretary of State

Non-confidential version – redacted for publication [✂]

Statement

Published 16 December 2025

For more information on this publication, please visit [ofcom.org.uk](https://www.ofcom.org.uk)



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1. Overview

- 1.1 The Media Act 2024 introduced a new online availability and prominence regime focussed on connected TV platforms that enable people to select and access TV players and the programmes provided via those players.¹ Under this regime, connected TV platforms designated by the Secretary of State will be required to ensure that BBC iPlayer² and any other public service broadcaster ('PSB') TV players designated by Ofcom, along with their public service content, are available, prominent, and easily accessible.
- 1.2 Before deciding which connected TV platforms to designate, the Secretary of State must first receive a report from Ofcom setting out our recommendations.
- 1.3 In July 2025, we consulted on our [draft report](#), in which we explained which platforms we proposed to recommend for designation and why. We received 16 responses to that consultation ('Consultation') which we have carefully considered alongside additional information which we gathered during the consultation period, before finalising this report ('Report').³ In preparing this Report, we have considered the impact of our recommendations and our relevant statutory duties.⁴
- 1.4 This Report is structured as follows:
 - a) **Section 2** provides background information about the regulatory framework and how services are designated;
 - b) **Section 3** contains a summary of what we said in the Consultation about how we assessed platforms using the principles and methods set out in a [statement](#) earlier in the year. We also set out the comments which stakeholders made in response to the Consultation and how we have taken account of their views in our analysis;
 - c) **Section 4** sets out our final recommendations for designation; and
 - d) **Annexes 1, 2 and 3** provide additional detail on the legal framework and our application of our statutory duties, the data sources and research underpinning our work and our impact assessments, including on equality and the Welsh language.
- 1.5 It now falls to the Secretary of State to decide which connected TV platforms should be designated as regulated platforms.
- 1.6 In the new year, we will consult on two further documents: a draft code of practice setting out how designated platform providers can comply with their new prominence and accessibility duties ('Code of Practice'); and draft guidance explaining how those platform providers and designated PSBs can agree terms that are consistent with the requirements of the Act ('Guidance'). Following consultation, we will publish our final Code of Practice and Guidance.⁵

¹ The new online availability and prominence regime was introduced by Part 2 of the Media Act, which inserted Part 3A into the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act').

² TV players provided by the BBC will be automatically designated (section 362AA(1)(a) of the Act).

³ We have published all non-confidential responses on our [website](#).

⁴ These duties are set out in the legal framework in Annex 1.

⁵ A timeline of the implementation process is available on the [Ofcom website](#).

What we have decided – in brief

In this document, we have applied the principles and methods we set out earlier in the year to identify the connected TV platforms we recommend the Secretary of State designates using her powers under the Act.

Taking account of the points raised by stakeholders in response to our Consultation in July, we have assessed the number of users of connected TV platforms on the basis of what we consider to be the best available metric – the number of those platforms installed on relevant devices in UK homes that have been actively used in the last year.

Applying this metric, we remain of the view that a platform must have at least 700,000 active users if it is to be considered to have a significant number of users. We consider that setting a threshold at this level will ensure that public service content is widely available.

We recognise that, for some platforms, multiple versions may be in use. In those cases, we recommend that the designations should apply only to versions available on the market in July 2025, when we issued our Consultation, as well as any subsequent versions.

Finally, we took account of a range of demographic factors, including variations in connected TV platform usage between age groups, income levels and across the UK's nations. We have concluded that there are no significant usage differences among these groups that should affect our approach.

Taking the above into account, and using additional information gathered during the consultation period, we have made some amendments to the list of platforms that we proposed to recommend for designation in our Consultation. In particular, we have added Freely as, based on our review of more recent data, it now meets the criteria we have set out.

Accordingly, we recommend that the following 15 connected TV platforms (plus any subsequent versions of these platforms) should be designated: Amazon Fire TV OS 6, 7 and 8; Android TV 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14; Apple TV OS 18; Freely; Google TV 10, 11, 12 and 14; LG WebOS 22, 23, 24 and 25; Roku OS 14; Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen) 7, 8 and 9; Sky Entertainment OS;⁶ Sky Q; VIDAA OS U6, 7, 8 and 9; Virgin Media Horizon;⁷ Virgin Media TiVo on V6 ITE; YouView on EE TV (Sagemcom ITE) and YouView on Sony ITE.

The overview section in this document is a simplified high-level summary only. The decisions we have taken and our reasoning are set out in the full document.

⁶ [redacted]

⁷ [redacted]

2. Background

- 2.1 Prior to the introduction of the Media Act, the regulatory framework for public service broadcasters ('PSBs') focussed exclusively on linear television channels. The new regime seeks to build on that by bringing into scope the PSBs' TV players ('IPS'), along with the connected TV platforms (television selection services or 'TSS') on which those IPS are included.
- 2.2 Under the Act, providers of TSS that are designated by the Secretary of State (referred to as regulated TSS or 'RTSS') must ensure that BBC iPlayer and any other PSB IPS designated by Ofcom (designated IPS or 'DIPS') are available, prominent, and easily accessible on their RTSS.

Connected TV software platforms are TSS

- 2.3 Under the Act, TSS are defined on the basis of four cumulative criteria. According to these, a TSS must:
- a) be provided via the internet;
 - b) be provided in connection with Internet Television Equipment ('ITE');
 - c) consist of the presentation of IPS; and
 - d) enable a user to select between and access IPS or programmes provided by those IPS, or both.⁸
- 2.4 ITE are apparatus specified by the Secretary of State in regulations.⁹ The regulations made in October 2024¹⁰ specify smart TVs¹¹ and streaming devices, such as set-top boxes and streaming sticks,¹² as ITE.
- 2.5 As illustrated in **Figure 1**, ITE are the physical devices which viewers use to access content on their TVs. The software platforms integrated into those devices enable viewers to navigate, select and watch programmes. These software platforms are TSS.
- 2.6 A TSS is usually provided on a range of different devices, many of which are available in different models, and smart TVs made by a manufacturer may operate different versions of a certain TSS. We explain how we treat TSS and different versions of the same TSS in Section 3.

⁸ Section 362AE(1) of the Act.

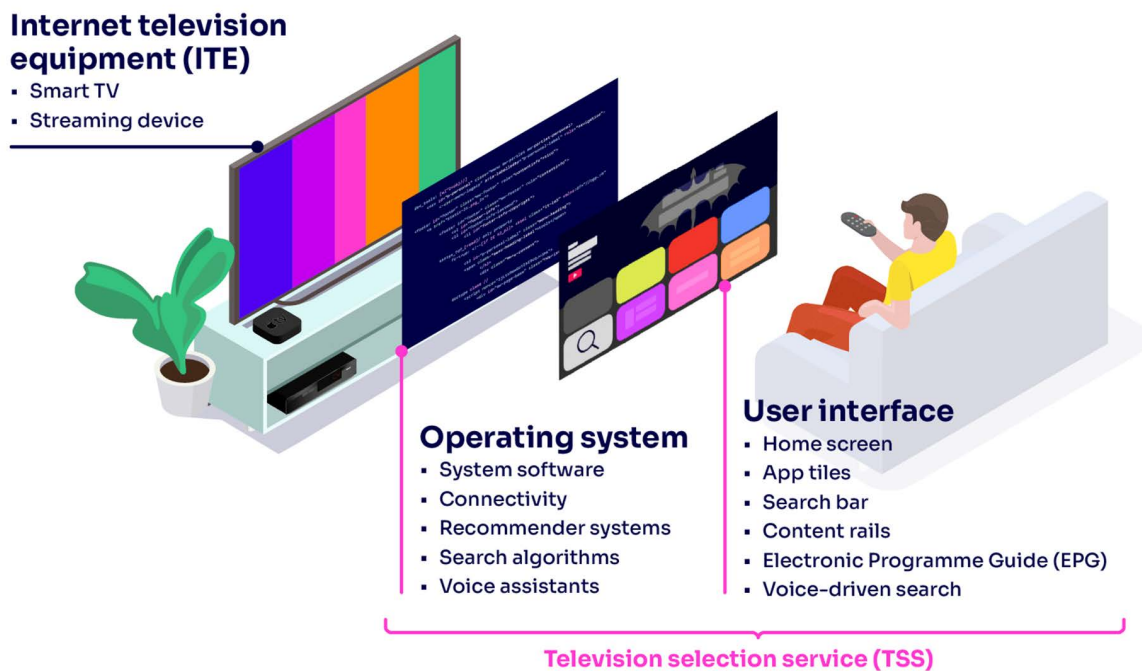
⁹ Section 362AE(2) of the Act.

¹⁰ [The Internet Television Equipment Regulations 2024 \(2024/1056\)](#).

¹¹ Article 2(2) of the regulations says that "smart television" means "a television which is (a) capable of connection to the internet; and (b) designed primarily for (i) enabling the user to select and access programmes; and (ii) displaying programmes".

¹² Article 2(2) of the regulations says that "streaming device" means "apparatus which is (a) capable of connection to the internet; (b) designed primarily for (i) enabling the user to select and access programmes; and (ii) displaying programmes; and (c) not able to display programmes by itself".

Figure 1: Components of ITE devices and TSS software



Source: Ofcom.

- 2.7 In addition, there are several new services which function in ways that are not entirely equivalent to an operating system, but may have significant control over the user’s experience of ITE. For example, Freely is an HBB (‘hybrid broadcast broadband’) TV operator app that provides a complete TV environment that can sit alongside a smart TV’s user interface (‘UI’) or replace it entirely.
- 2.8 We consider there are currently two such services that meet the definition of a TSS: Freely,¹³ and YouView in its new form available on smart TVs such as Sony TV and Apple TV.¹⁴
- 2.9 We also recognise that it is possible to have more than one TSS operating on a single ITE. For example, some smart TVs offer users the manufacturer’s operating system and related UI, and also a service such as Freely. For the purposes of this Report, we have considered such services to be separate TSS.

¹³ Freely is a service, or a dissociable section of a service provided by means of the internet. It is provided in connection with ITE since it is integrated as an operator app on a number of different smart TVs. It consists of the presentation of IPS included in the service as users are able to access PSB IPS through Freely. Finally, it enables users to select between and access IPS or programmes provided by those IPS, or both.

¹⁴ YouView services have been available in the UK market for several years and we considered its main operating system and also its new form available on Sony and Apple TVs. YouView is a service, or a dissociable section of a service provided by means of the internet. It is provided in connection with ITE, since it is integrated into ITE and has some degree of control over it. However, it functions in a significantly different way depending on the device. It consists of the presentation of IPS included in the service as a user is able to access all of the PSB IPS through YouView. Finally, it enables users to select between and access IPS or programmes provided by those IPS, or both.

Recommending TSS for designation

2.10 The Secretary of State will make regulations to designate TSS as RTSS, having first received a report from Ofcom setting out our recommendations on designation.¹⁵

Designation powers

- 2.11 Under the Act, the Secretary of State may designate TSS by regulations using two powers: by specifying individual TSS, or by describing TSS.¹⁶ Individual designation regulations will name individual TSS. Designation by description regulations will set out a description of TSS,¹⁷ and any TSS that meets that description is designated.¹⁸
- 2.12 We may make recommendations to the Secretary of State about the exercise of either or both powers.¹⁹ To ensure transparency, we said in our [Statement of Principles and Methods](#) ('SOP&M') that we would explain in our report why we have recommended the exercise of a particular power.²⁰

What we said

- 2.13 Our draft recommendations, as set out in the [Consultation](#), were that the Secretary of State designate TSS on an individual basis.²¹ We considered that this approach would provide clarity for RTSS providers (and PSBs) subject to the new regulatory regime. We also considered this would be a practicable approach, given the relatively small number of TSS that we were proposing to recommend for designation.
- 2.14 In addition, we explained that it was likely to be challenging to give effect to our proposals by designating using a description. This was for two main reasons: the absence of suitable data measuring individual TSS users or usage, which led us to identify a proxy based on first-party data verified against third-party sources; and because providers differ in how they manage different versions of their TSS.
- 2.15 We acknowledged that designating TSS individually would mean that those designations would remain in place until such time as the Secretary of State removes or amends them. However, we considered that the individual services which we had identified as suitable for designation were likely to remain so for a reasonable time period. We also explained that we intend to monitor market developments to ensure that our approach and recommendations continue to reflect market conditions.

¹⁵ We may prepare a report on our own initiative, or the Secretary of State may ask us to prepare one (section 362AG(1), (3) and (6) of the Act). Where the Secretary of State seeks Ofcom's advice, she may provide us with a particular description of TSS to be designated. Annex 1 paragraphs A1.8-A1.10, discuss the designation powers in more detail.

¹⁶ Section 362AF(1) of the Act.

¹⁷ Section 362AF(3) states that the regulations may frame a description of TSS, in particular, by reference to the TSS being used, or being used in a specified manner, by no fewer than a specified number of users; the date on which it was first made available in the UK; and the functions it is capable or may be made capable of carrying out.

¹⁸ Providers of TSS that meet the description must notify Ofcom under section 362AH of the Act. However, designation is not dependent on notification – a TSS becomes designated as soon as it meets the description.

¹⁹ Section 362AG(1) of the Act.

²⁰ Ofcom, 2025, [Statement of Principles and Methods](#), paragraph 1.13.

²¹ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 2.19 – 2.20.

What respondents said

- 2.16 The BBC recommended that a criteria-based approach to designation would allow us to be more responsive to market changes and provide more certainty and consistency. Sky also suggested designation by description as a potential approach to designation.²²
- 2.17 Along with some other respondents, the BBC also asked for more clarity on the process for reviewing and updating our recommendations. Stakeholders asked about the frequency of reviews (with some suggestions that we do this on a yearly or twice-yearly basis), the treatment of fast-growing new TSS and the process for removing RTSS that fall below the threshold from designation.²³

Our response

- 2.18 For the reasons set out in Section 3,²⁴ we are recommending that the Secretary of State designate only those TSS that have a significant number of users, and that the designation should exclude some versions of certain TSS.
- 2.19 The Secretary of State will designate TSS by making regulations. Designating TSS on an individual basis will provide clarity and certainty for TSS providers, PSBs and other stakeholders. We consider this to be particularly important in the first regulations that will establish this new regime. In addition, the relatively small number of TSS that we are recommending be designated means that it is practicable to specify each TSS in the regulations.
- 2.20 The alternative approach would be to make regulations designating TSS by description, based on a set of characteristics or criteria. To give effect to our recommendations, the regulations would need to set a user number threshold and the method to be used to calculate user numbers of TSS. They would also need to set out the criteria and method to be applied to determine which versions of TSS are within scope of the designation. We consider that this approach is less likely to provide clarity and certainty about which TSS, and which versions of those TSS, are designated.
- 2.21 We recognise that designating TSS on an individual basis means that there is a need to keep the designations under review in order to ensure that the regime remains effective in achieving its goals. We plan to monitor market developments and will prepare a new report for the Secretary of State when it is appropriate to do so. Our view is that a flexible approach will be more efficient and effective than setting a rigid timetable for reviewing our recommendations, as it will enable us to respond to changes in the market as they arise. We also note that the Secretary of State can request us to prepare a report.²⁵
- 2.22 When preparing future reports, we will consider the market context at that time, including when considering what level of use is significant, whether any new TSS should be included in our recommended RTSS and whether we consider that any RTSS should be removed from designation.

²² BBC response, pp.5-6 and Sky response, p.6.

²³ BBC response, pp.4-6, ITV response, p.2, Name Withheld 3 response, pp.2-3, Everyone TV response, p.1 and Channel 4 response p.3.

²⁴ Particularly in paragraphs 3.23 – 3.30.

²⁵ Section 362AG(2) of the Act.

Our conclusion

- 2.23 We have decided to recommend that the Secretary of State designates TSS on an individual basis and have set out a possible approach to implement our proposals in Section 4. We note that this approach would ensure that any new versions of RTSS would be automatically included in the designation without the need for a new statutory instrument or report from Ofcom.
- 2.24 We will monitor the market and consider whether alternative approaches are appropriate when preparing future reports.

3. Assessment

Applying our principles and methods

- 3.1 When we prepare a report making recommendations on individual designation, we must take account of a range of factors which are specified in the Act:
- a) the number of UK users of a particular TSS and whether that number is significant;
 - b) the manner in which the service is used;
 - c) whether the service is capable of functioning as an RTSS, including any necessary modifications; and
 - d) any other matters we consider likely to affect these issues.²⁶
- 3.2 Our [SOP&M](#) sets out the principles and methods we will apply to take account of these factors when preparing recommendations for the Secretary of State. In the following sections, we set out our assessment of each factor as follows:
- a) **metrics to measure the number of users and manner of use:** our approach to measuring the number of users and manner of use of TSS in this first Report;
 - b) **threshold for a significant level of use:** our assessment of what constitutes a significant level of use and the TSS that meet that threshold, including consideration of the following factors:
 - i) seeking to ensure that public service content is widely available,
 - ii) determining the threshold in a proportionate way looking at potential impacts on RTSS and DIPS providers; and
 - iii) our approach to TSS with multiple versions in use;
 - c) **technical functionality:** our assessment of the technical functionality of the TSS that meet the threshold; and
 - d) **additional matters:** our assessment of any additional relevant matters for designation, which include use by different demographic groups.
- 3.3 For each factor, we have set out a summary of stakeholders' comments on the **Consultation**, our response to those comments and our final assessment.

Metrics to measure the number of users and manner of use

What we said

- 3.4 In our SOP&M, we explained that we would use the best available evidence to provide an objective and reliable basis for our assessment of the number of people using a TSS. We made clear that we may choose to apply a proxy for the number of users if we considered that user numbers could not otherwise be measured reliably and that we would apply a consistent methodology to our assessment to ensure fair treatment. We also explained that

²⁶ Section 362AG(4) of the Act.

in assessing the manner in which services are used, we would generally look at active use, including data on how regularly particular TSS are accessed by users.²⁷

- 3.5 In the Consultation, we explained that we considered several options for measuring individual TSS users and usage, including consumer survey research, user data collected by TSS providers and viewing data.²⁸ Although we did draw on consumer insights to benchmark and fill gaps in our analysis, we did not consider that any of these options provided an appropriate metric on which to base our core analysis. This was due to various limitations including:
- a) reliability issues with survey data – surveys generally rely on consumer recall rather than active usage and people tend to be less aware of the TSS they use than of the device on which it operates;
 - b) differences in how TSS providers collate data – for example, the data routinely collected by TSS providers may capture user accounts or pay-TV subscriptions rather than the number of individual users of specific ITE or TSS; and
 - c) incomplete measurement of viewing data – we are not aware of any consistent, suitably comprehensive measure of viewing data.
- 3.6 In the absence of suitable data measuring actual individual TSS users or usage, we identified the ‘number of TSS installed on ITE that are in active usage in UK homes’ as the best available proxy. We explained that this metric provides a comprehensive and consistent picture of the TSS market by measuring all ITE – and the specific TSS installed on them – used by members of the public in the UK, across all television sets in the home.
- 3.7 For our initial analysis, we used data for this proxy from a research and consultancy company called Omdia. Omdia’s data is informed by: device shipment figures from the ITE supply chain (i.e. from manufacturers of ITE devices and components, such as panels and semiconductors/microchips); device failure and replacement-rate modelling; and consumer survey data.
- 3.8 Data for the proxy metric is also held by TSS providers. We therefore cross-checked Omdia’s data with data from TSS providers. Initially, we requested monthly and annual data for 2022, 2023 and 2024 for all versions of TSS. Because Omdia’s data did not include monthly usage for every TSS, we decided to use *annual* active usage data rather than *monthly* active usage so that we would be able to conduct a thorough cross-check and monitor the market comprehensively.²⁹ Although there were some differences between the TSS provider and Omdia data, the respective market positions of each TSS measured remained broadly consistent, regardless of how they were measured.
- 3.9 In our Consultation, we asked stakeholders whether they agreed with this proposed approach.
- 3.10 Following the Consultation, we sent further requests for data from certain TSS providers relating to the versions we had proposed to recommend for designation in the Consultation. Where possible, these requests were for annual data for 2024 (the last full year), but to avoid disproportionately burdening stakeholders, in some cases we requested

²⁷ [SOP&M](#), paragraphs 1.16 and 1.19 – 1.20.

²⁸ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.5 – 3.10.

²⁹ See Annex 2 for more information on the methodology used for this data.

monthly data and used that to estimate annual usage.³⁰ We also sent further information requests to some TSS providers where we considered more up-to-date information would be helpful to our assessment. These included Everyone TV, as Omdia’s data suggested that Freely’s user base had increased significantly, and Sky, [X].³¹

What respondents said

- 3.11 There was broad agreement from respondents to our proposed methodology, with, for example, Channel 4 describing our approach as pragmatic.³² However, some respondents requested clarification about:
- a) how we would account for multiple devices in a single household when measuring the number of active users of a TSS;³³ and
 - b) how we would measure and treat multiple TSS operating on one device.³⁴
- 3.12 The BBC and Channel 4 expressed concern that both regulated and unregulated TSS could co-exist on the same device and provide features (such as different voice control or search functions) alongside each other. They argued that this could have the effect that some viewers would not benefit from the regime as a result of their preferred navigation method. To address the question of who has control in instances where there is more than one TSS on a device, the BBC recommended that we provide more clarity on how to determine which TSS provider is considered to have general control over the user experience of a device.³⁵
- 3.13 Google requested further guidance on the respective obligations of DIPS and RTSS providers where two RTSS co-exist on a device. It gave the example of a device with two RTSS where one of the RTSS is a PSB joint venture that secures access to all or most PSB services for that device, so the other RTSS is reliant on it to ensure carriage of the DIPS.³⁶

Our response

- 3.14 The approach to collecting data that we proposed in the Consultation captures the vast majority of TSS and ITE brands on the market, providing an effective means of measuring ITE and the TSS used in connection with them. This means that, in a situation where there are multiple devices in a household, each device and each TSS installed on that device would be counted separately.
- 3.15 In that context, it is possible that regulated and unregulated TSS may be present on the same device and that only the former would be subject to the requirements of the new prominence regime. That is because the statutory framework has been designed to apply to providers of TSS, rather than to providers of the hardware on which those TSS operate.

³⁰ Our estimates were informed by the annual data provided in response to our initial information requests for all TSS versions.

³¹ [X]

³² BT Group response, p.2; Channel 4 response, p.1; Virgin Media O2 response, p.2; Everyone TV response, p.1; Name Withheld 3 response, p.2; and STV response, p.1.

³³ BT Group response, pp.2-3.

³⁴ BBC response, pp.1-3, Google response, pp.6-7 and Channel 4 response, p.4.

³⁵ BBC response, pp.1-3 and Channel 4 response, p.4.

³⁶ Google response, pp. 6-7.

- 3.16 In response to the BBC’s recommendation that we clarify how to determine which TSS provider is considered to have general control over the user experience of a device, the Act does not require an RTSS provider to have general control of a device.
- 3.17 The Act is clear that the provider of an RTSS is the person who has general control over the manner in which the RTSS presents to its users the IPS that it includes.³⁷ There can only be one provider of an RTSS and that person is responsible for complying with all of the relevant statutory duties that apply to it.³⁸
- 3.18 That remains the case where multiple TSS operate on a device. For example, if a device includes two RTSS – A and B – the provider of A would be responsible for complying with the statutory duties for A and the provider of B would be responsible for complying with the statutory duties for B.
- 3.19 Regarding voice control and voice assistants, the definition of TSS does not expressly refer to either. Whether a voice control function or voice assistant meets the definition of a TSS will depend on the circumstances in each case. We are not aware currently of any voice control functions or voice assistants that meet the definition of a TSS, but there are some TSS that incorporate voice control functions. Where a voice control function forms part of an RTSS then the new prominence regime would apply to that RTSS in the normal way.

Our conclusion

- 3.20 Having carefully considered the responses provided by stakeholders, we have decided to proceed with our proposed approach to measure the number of people using a TSS in the UK and the manner in which such services are used. That means we will use as a proxy ‘the number of TSS installed on ITE that are in active use in UK homes’ on an annual basis.

Threshold for a significant level of use

What we said

- 3.21 The Secretary of State may only designate a TSS on an individual basis if they are satisfied that the service is used by a significant number of members of the public in the United Kingdom.³⁹
- 3.22 In our SOP&M, we explained that when assessing whether the number of members of the public using a TSS were significant, we would use a threshold. We stated that, when setting the level of that threshold, we would seek to ensure that public service content was widely available. We also stated that we would determine the threshold in a proportionate way, including by taking into account the impact of regulatory obligations on service providers.⁴⁰

Ensuring that public service content is widely available

- 3.23 In the Consultation, when considering the wide availability of public service content, we noted that, while viewing of broadcast TV is on a long-term downward trajectory, the evidence indicates that currently most people are ‘hybrid viewers’, accessing both

³⁷ Section 362AE(5) of the Act.

³⁸ Sections 362AK, 362AO(1), 362AO(3) and 362AO(4) of the Act.

³⁹ Section 362AF(2) of the Act.

⁴⁰ [SOP&M](#), paragraph 1.17.

broadcast TV channels and online content.⁴¹ We also noted that the evidence suggested that many viewers used multiple different services to watch TV online. We therefore concluded it was unlikely to be appropriate for a new TSS market entrant or a TSS used by a relatively small number of people to be designated at this time in order to secure the wide availability of public service content.⁴²

Impacts on TSS providers

- 3.24 In considering the impact of designation on TSS providers, we were mindful of the fact that a 'must include' obligation⁴³ means that some RTSS providers may incur additional costs if one or more DIPS are not currently included in that provider's service. However, based on evidence from a range of TSS providers, we estimated that the costs of adding a PSB's IPS to a TSS are likely to be relatively small, with one-off costs ranging between c£50k and £200k and ongoing costs ranging between c£10k and £50k a year. We also noted that most TSS providers with relatively large numbers of users already carry the majority of the PSBs' IPS. We did not identify any reasons why these TSS providers would change their behaviour in the future.⁴⁴
- 3.25 In our assessment, we also took account of the fact that RTSS providers will have to comply with the prominence and accessibility requirements in the Act.⁴⁵ In the Consultation, we explained that we could not assess the full impact of those costs, as the Code of Practice and Guidance had not yet been finalised,⁴⁶ and this remains the case. However, we explained that many TSS providers already enter into commercial arrangements with PSBs, which include terms covering prominence. We also noted that many TSS providers take steps to ensure the integration of certain accessibility features into their TSS and that TSS providers that supply to EU member states must comply with the European Accessibility Act.⁴⁷
- 3.26 On the other hand, we said in the Consultation that we considered that TSS providers benefit from having PSB IPS on their service and the agreement objectives are designed to encourage effective commercial negotiations and support both parties to reach appropriate terms.⁴⁸
- 3.27 We also noted the risk that applying regulation to TSS could discourage innovation and, by including more TSS, a lower threshold could increase this risk. However, we considered this

⁴¹ Ofcom analysis of Barb viewing data – as-viewed on TV sets and other connected devices in the home – as published in our [Communications Market Report: interactive data 2025](#), shows that in 2024, people spent an average of 1 hour 5 minutes per day watching IPS and 1 hour 42 minutes per day watching live TV via broadcast.

⁴² [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.22 – 3.25.

⁴³ By 'must-include' obligation we mean the obligations on RTSS providers set out in section 362AK of the Act.

⁴⁴ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.27 – 3.29.

⁴⁵ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.31 – 3.32.

⁴⁶ [Consultation](#), paragraph 3.32.

⁴⁷ Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the [accessibility requirements for products and services](#). This requires certain accessibility features for products placed on the market since 28 June 2025.

⁴⁸ DIPS and RTSS providers have a duty to act consistently with the agreement objectives defined in Section 362AM(1) of the Act when negotiating the arrangements required to meet the requirements of their 'must include' and 'must make available' obligations.

risk to be low, as we will seek to avoid any disproportionate restrictions on innovation when developing the Code of Practice and Guidance.⁴⁹

Impacts on DIPS providers

- 3.28 When assessing the impacts on DIPS providers, we considered that, in general, DIPS providers were likely to benefit from a lower threshold because more RTSS providers would be required to include their services and give them appropriate prominence. However, we also noted the potential costs to DIPS providers in complying with the statutory requirement to ensure their DIPS are included and functional on all RTSS.⁵⁰
- 3.29 When we consulted on the draft report, PSB IPS were already carried on many TSS. However, we recognised that where this was not the case the DIPS provider would incur some costs to ensure technical compatibility, as well as any costs associated with new and then ongoing commercial negotiations. If a PSB determined that the costs of offering its IPS to an RTSS that did not already carry it outweighed the potential benefits, it might choose not to apply for designation.⁵¹ We considered that, although a higher threshold would not eliminate this risk, it would limit it by reducing the number of TSS designated.⁵²

Conclusion

- 3.30 Taking the above factors into account, we proposed that a TSS must have 700,000 active users if it is to be considered to have a significant number of users. This threshold is equivalent to around 1% of the total number of actively used TSS installed on ITE.
- 3.31 We asked whether stakeholders agreed with our assessment and proposed threshold.

What respondents said

- 3.32 In response to our proposals, many respondents expressed their agreement with our proposed threshold of 700,000 active users. For example, Virgin Media O2 considered it to be a reasonable and appropriate level to satisfy our objective of ensuring that public service content is widely available.⁵³
- 3.33 A few stakeholders argued that the threshold should be lower:
- Everyone TV considered that the proposed threshold was too high to meet the objective of making PSB content available and discoverable for viewers.⁵⁴
 - The BBC said that setting the threshold too low could create risks such as imposing a burden on PSBs by requiring them to support lots of niche or legacy platforms and inhibiting TSS providers' ability to innovate. However, it argued that legacy devices usually have a user base in the low tens of thousands and so the threshold could be lowered considerably before it would capture such devices. The BBC considered that a threshold of 250,000 would not only capture more of the market than our proposal, it

⁴⁹ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.35 – 3.37.

⁵⁰ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.39 – 3.40.

⁵¹ TV players provided by the BBC will be designated automatically by the Act (Section 362AA(1)(a) of the Act). This provision has not yet been brought into force (for more information about the IPS designation process see Ofcom, 2025, [Designation of Public Service Broadcaster Internet Programme Services: Statement on the methods Ofcom will apply when making our designation decision](#)).

⁵² [Consultation](#), paragraph 3.42.

⁵³ Virgin Media O2 response, pp.2 and 4; Name Withheld 3 response, p.2; STV response, pp.2-3; BT Group response, p.3 and Channel 4 response, p.4.

⁵⁴ Everyone TV response, p.2.

- would also minimise the risk of TSS providers deliberately keeping user numbers below the threshold to avoid designation.⁵⁵
- c) Another stakeholder argued that by setting the threshold too high we would be preventing new TSS from being designated, which could limit the ability of such TSS to grow and compete.⁵⁶
- 3.34 On the other hand, Everyone TV noted that if the threshold was set too low it is likely that the costs to DIPS and RTSS providers would not be justified.⁵⁷ Similarly, Channel 4 said that a threshold that was too low could result in an uneconomic outcome whereby DIPS providers are required to include their DIPS on very small TSS where the number of users would not justify the costs of technical integration. Therefore, it considered setting the threshold at 700,000 active users to be reasonable.⁵⁸
- 3.35 The Connected TV Marketing Association (CTVMA) recommended an alternative approach of having a tiered threshold to support innovation among smaller services.⁵⁹
- 3.36 ITV disagreed with parts of our assessment.⁶⁰ It questioned the relevance of taking into account the fact that DIPS providers may be able to reach audiences in a single household through different TSS, as well as our assessment that many people will continue to have access to broadcast public service channels even after online-only homes become the majority. It cited Barb survey data demonstrating that over 25% of homes no longer have a TV platform with a regulated Electronic Programme Guide ('EPG').⁶¹

Our response

- 3.37 As part of our assessment for the Consultation, we considered setting a lower threshold.⁶² We found that reducing it would offer limited incremental audience benefits (as the number of additional TSS that would be included is relatively limited). However, a lower threshold would risk imposing disproportionate costs on smaller TSS providers and DIPS providers – a potential consequence also identified by Channel 4.⁶³
- 3.38 We also considered the potential risk that DIPS providers would prioritise their arrangements with RTSS, with the result that smaller TSS providers would find it more difficult to secure carriage deals with PSBs. We concluded that although a lower threshold could help mitigate that risk, it could also discourage some smaller TSS providers from entering the market.⁶⁴
- 3.39 We remain of the view that the potential costs and risks to competition and innovation are likely to outweigh the benefits of reducing the threshold and that currently it is not appropriate for a TSS used by a relatively small number of people to be designated.
- 3.40 In response to the suggestion of a tiered threshold, for the reasons set out above, we consider 700,000 to be a significant number of users. We do not see any reason to add any

⁵⁵ BBC response, pp.3-4

⁵⁶ [3<]

⁵⁷ Everyone TV response, p.2.

⁵⁸ Channel 4 response, p.4.

⁵⁹ CTVMA response, p.2.

⁶⁰ ITV response, p.1.

⁶¹ Barb, Establishment Survey, Q1 2025.

⁶² [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.64 – 3.67.

⁶³ Channel 4 response, p.4.

⁶⁴ [Consultation](#), paragraph 3.36.

further ‘tiers’ above 700,000 or distinguish between TSS that meet that threshold as part of our assessment of whether the number of users of TSS is significant.

- 3.41 Further, we acknowledge the BBC’s concern that TSS providers may seek to keep user numbers below the threshold to avoid designation, but we do not consider it likely that it would be in TSS providers’ commercial interests to restrict growth in this way.
- 3.42 In response to questions about our assessment, in the Consultation we recognised that a growing proportion of homes are not connected to a traditional broadcast network, such as DTT or satellite, meaning that people’s main route to content is often not via the traditional EPG.⁶⁵ However, we also noted that the evidence shows that most people access both broadcast TV channels and online content and many will continue to have access to broadcast public service channels for some time to come given the continuing availability of DTT, satellite and cable platforms.⁶⁶ We also consider the presence of multiple TSS in homes is a relevant factor in our assessment because it increases the likelihood that one of those TSS will be designated and therefore subject to the new regime.

Our conclusion

- 3.43 We recommend setting the threshold for designating a TSS at 700,000 active users.
- 3.44 As a result of our review of more recent data, we have updated our assessment of the number of users of two TSS: Sky+ HD and Freely.
- 3.45 At the time of the Consultation, the evidence available supported our assessment that Sky+ HD had met this threshold as of 2024 but it was unlikely to remain above the threshold for a reasonable amount of time from designation. Therefore, our provisional view was that Sky+ HD should not be designated because the impact of designation in terms of potential costs, especially for DIPS providers, would outweigh the potential benefits for audiences. Since the Consultation, we have received more recent data and no longer consider that Sky+ HD has a significant number of users as at the date of this Report. We therefore consider it is not appropriate for us to recommend the designation of Sky+ HD on the basis that its number of active users no longer meets what we consider to be the threshold for significance.
- 3.46 We have also reviewed more recent data regarding Freely which shows that it now meets our recommended threshold and has a significant number of users.
- 3.47 Our review of more recent data did not indicate that the user numbers of any TSS besides Freely had increased from below the user number threshold at the time of the Consultation to above the threshold now.

TSS with multiple versions in use

What we said

- 3.48 In the Consultation, we explained that TSS providers do not have a standard approach to supporting different versions of their TSS.⁶⁷ Specifically:

⁶⁵ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 2.3 – 2.6.

⁶⁶ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 2.2 – 2.5 and Figure 1.

⁶⁷ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.49 – 3.51.

- a) **Multiple versions:** whereas some TSS providers automatically update their service on a regular basis, so that they effectively maintain only one version of their TSS at any given time, others operate multiple versions of the same TSS across various ITE, offering updates and notifications to users without forcing upgrades.
- b) **Length of support:** most of the TSS providers from whom we gathered information support TSS versions on older ITE models for at least five years after the device's market launch, but others offer support for seven to ten years or longer. Even where support is available for an extended period, versions on devices older than five years often received lower levels of support depending on the costs involved and the number of users affected.
- c) **Hardware limitations:** we noted that the extent of support for older TSS versions was often influenced by the hardware limitations of the older ITE for which they were originally designed – such as the processing power, memory and storage capacity of those ITE – and the cost implications of updates. In particular, our analysis showed that certain updates – for example, upgraded security features – could be costly or technically impossible to implement on older IPS available on older ITE models.

- 3.49 In light of these factors, our provisional conclusion was that where a TSS has multiple versions, it would not be proportionate to designate all of those versions. This was because requiring support for every TSS version would be likely to impose disproportionate costs on both RTSS and IPS providers, negatively impacting investment that might otherwise benefit audiences.⁶⁸
- 3.50 As a result, we proposed that, where a TSS has multiple versions in use, it would be appropriate to recommend only currently available versions of a TSS for designation, as well as any future versions released while the designation is in place. We explained that by 'currently available', we meant TSS versions available on the market in July 2025 – the date of our Consultation.⁶⁹
- 3.51 Once we had identified which versions were currently available, we assessed whether the combined number of users of all currently available versions of a TSS met or exceeded our proposed threshold of 700,000 active users. Based on that assessment and our assessment of the number of users of TSS with only one version in use, we concluded that 15 TSS exceeded the threshold.⁷⁰
- 3.52 We asked whether stakeholders agreed with our proposals in relation to TSS available in multiple versions.

What respondents said

Approach to TSS with multiple versions in use

- 3.53 None of the responses we received questioned our starting principle that it would be disproportionate for every TSS version to be designated. However, there was disagreement among respondents about exactly which versions should be included in our designation recommendations.
- 3.54 Several stakeholders supported our proposed approach with [X] describing it as sensible.⁷¹

⁶⁸ [Consultation](#), paragraph 3.52.

⁶⁹ [Consultation](#), paragraph 3.53.

⁷⁰ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.60 – 3.61

⁷¹ BT Group response, p.3, Name Withheld 3 response, p.2, Channel 4 response, p.1 and CTVMA response, p.2.

- 3.55 Others were concerned that our proposed approach would exclude a substantial proportion of the market, including versions of TSS used by a large number of people. They therefore considered that earlier versions should be included.⁷² For example, Channel 4 proposed that we abandon the ‘currently available’ requirement for versions and instead recommend designating TSS versions from at least 2020.⁷³
- 3.56 Channel 4 also suggested including an automatic mechanism to remove older TSS from designation after a fixed period from the date on which the ITE on which the TSS is installed was first made available on the market.⁷⁴ The BBC had a similar concern about sunseting older devices and proposed that TSS and DIPS providers should be permitted to mutually agree when to sunset a device. The BT Group asked whether RTSS providers might have scope to develop versions or ‘operating modes’ that would then be outside the new prominence regime.⁷⁵
- 3.57 A few respondents asked us to clarify what we meant by ‘available on the market’, how we assessed it and how we will assess it in future,⁷⁶ [redacted].⁷⁷
- 3.58 Several stakeholders were concerned that the inclusion of future versions in the designation could give rise to a potential loophole if TSS providers rebrand new versions as new TSS to avoid regulation.⁷⁸

Application of our approach

- 3.59 A few respondents questioned the application of our approach and the result in respect of specific TSS.
- 3.60 Google asked about our assessment of Android TV 10 and VIDAA argued that only VIDAA U8, U9 and subsequent versions of VIDAA OS should be recommended for designation because U6 and U7 are being updated to newer versions.⁷⁹
- 3.61 [redacted]⁸⁰ ITV questioned whether older versions of LG WebOS and Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen) should be designated, as they are still used by large numbers of people.⁸¹

Our response

Approach to TSS with multiple versions in use

- 3.62 We have carefully considered stakeholders’ suggestions that we include versions that were available from 2020 or another earlier date.
- 3.63 We expect the Secretary of State to designate TSS in 2026. If she adopts the individual designation approach that we are recommending in this Report, those designations would then remain in place until changed or removed in subsequent regulations.

⁷² Channel 4 response pp.1-2, ITV response, pp.1-2 [redacted].

⁷³ Channel 4 response, p.2.

⁷⁴ Channel 4 response, pp.2-3.

⁷⁵ BBC response, pp.3-4 and BT Group response, p.3.

⁷⁶ BBC response, p.6, STV response, p.2 and Google response, p.1.

⁷⁷ [redacted]

⁷⁸ BBC response, p.4, Everyone TV response, pp.1-2, STV response, p.1.

⁷⁹ Google response, p.3 and VIDAA response.

⁸⁰ [redacted]

⁸¹ ITV response, p.2.

- 3.64 As explained above, industry practice relating to the support of older versions varies, influenced by a range of factors including hardware limitations and the cost implications of updates. The inclusion of older versions within the regulatory regime is likely to be technically difficult and to give rise to costs to both RTSS and DIPS providers. In addition, the benefits to audiences of including older TSS versions are likely to decrease over time as people replace their devices and/or install and use new TSS versions.
- 3.65 At the same time, RTSS and DIPS providers may still opt to make PSB IPS available on some older TSS versions, outside the scope of the regulatory regime.⁸² Currently, we understand that RTSS and DIPS providers often negotiate for the TSS as a whole or agree similar terms for different versions. We do not consider that this approach is likely to change as a result of the new regulatory framework.
- 3.66 In the Consultation, we explained that if we applied our proposed approach to the data we collated on active usage of TSS⁸³ (i.e. for TSS with multiple versions in use, only counting active use of versions available on the market in July 2025), more than 65% of the total ITE in active use would be running a TSS version we proposed to recommend for designation, according to our estimates.⁸⁴ We now estimate this number to be around 70% and expect the share covered by the versions we recommend for designation to increase over time as new ITE are launched with designated versions (including any future versions), and older versions are upgraded.
- 3.67 For these reasons, we have decided to recommend designation only of versions available on the market in July 2025 and subsequent versions.
- 3.68 In response to requests for clarification of what we mean by a ‘currently available’ version of a TSS, it means that, at the time of our Consultation in July 2025, there was ITE on sale in the UK at a major retailer running that version. We determined whether a TSS version was currently available in July 2025 by researching ITE for sale at a range of online major retailers in the UK, supplementing our analysis with stakeholder engagement and requests for information to TSS providers.
- 3.69 As July 2025 is now in the past, to avoid confusion we will refer to ‘versions available on the market in July 2025’ in the rest of this Report. For the same reason, we will refer to ‘future versions’ as ‘subsequent versions’. We do not consider that the definition of ‘subsequent versions’ should include closed test versions that are not made available to the public.⁸⁵
- 3.70 The purpose of this assessment was to distinguish between older versions of TSS that we proposed not to recommend for designation, and newer versions that we proposed should be designated (starting from those versions available on the market in July 2025 and including all subsequent versions). We did not propose that versions should remain designated only for so long as they continue to be available in the market. We consider this would not be appropriate because it is reasonable to expect that people using versions available on the market in July 2025 will continue to benefit from the new prominence

⁸² [Consultation](#), paragraph 3.54.

⁸³ in accordance with paragraphs 3.5 – 3.20.

⁸⁴ [Consultation](#), paragraph 3.61.

⁸⁵ This means that as Apple tvOS 26 was only available in July 2025 in a closed beta version we have removed it from our list of relevant versions that were available on the market in July 2025, leaving Apple tvOS 18 as the only version available on the market in July 2025. However, Apple tvOS 26 would still fall within scope of our recommended designation, as it would be a ‘subsequent version’.

regime. Moreover, removing versions would decrease the number of users covered by RTSS and therefore reduce the audience benefits of the regime.

- 3.71 We have also considered stakeholders' suggestions about including a mechanism for removing older RTSS from designation or allowing RTSS providers to operate un-regulated 'modes'. Given that the TSS and versions of TSS we are proposing to recommend for designation were available on the market in July 2025, we consider these designations will remain appropriate for a reasonable period of time.
- 3.72 We recognise that there are TSS currently in use that providers have chosen to no longer make available to new customers and for which they provide limited support and development. One reason that TSS providers may make this choice is to allow them to focus on the development and improvement of new features on newer services, which may benefit users. However, many of these TSS have large numbers of users (well above the significance threshold). We consider that not recommending designation of services purely on the basis that they are no longer supported risks making the regime less effective at achieving the policy aim of widespread availability and prominence of PSB content.
- 3.73 We will monitor the market including in relation to legacy versions of services and consider whether any versions or services should be removed from designation when preparing future reports.
- 3.74 It is possible that there may be cases in the future where we will need to consider whether a service is a new version of an RTSS or a new TSS. In doing so, no one factor is likely to be definitive and we would expect to have regard to a range of factors, potentially including: user experience (e.g. the look and feel of the service, its features and functionality); technical and technological differences (e.g. the technical specifications for IPS on a service); and hardware compatibility (e.g. whether the service continues to operate on the same ITE).

Application of our approach

- 3.75 Following the Consultation, we have identified one additional version of Android TV, three additional versions of LG WebOS and one additional version of Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen) that were available on the market in July 2025: Android TV 9, LG WebOS 22, 23 and 24 and Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen) 7. We therefore consider that those versions should be added to our recommended RTSS.
- 3.76 We do not consider it appropriate to add any other versions of LG WebOS or Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen) that were not available on the market in July 2025 to our list of recommended RTSS.
- 3.77 Conversely, since Android TV 10 and VIDAA U6 and U7 were available on the market in July 2025 we consider it appropriate to recommend them for designation.

Our conclusion

- 3.78 Where a TSS has multiple versions, we have decided to recommend that only those versions which were available on the market in July 2025 and any subsequent versions are suitable for designation. This means that older versions not available on the market in July 2025 would be excluded from the scope of the designation.
- 3.79 Applying that approach to what we consider to be the best available evidence at the time of this Report (including the additional information we gathered during the consultation

period to confirm our active use estimates for different TSS versions), we consider that the following 15 TSS have a significant number of users (in alphabetical order): Amazon Fire TV OS 6, 7 and 8, Android TV 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14, Apple TV OS 18, Freely, Google TV 10, 11, 12 and 14, LG WebOS 22, 23, 24 and 25, Roku OS 14, Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen) 7, 8 and 9, Sky Entertainment OS,⁸⁶ Sky Q, VIDAA OS U6, 7, 8 and 9, Virgin Media Horizon,⁸⁷ Virgin Media TiVo on V6 ITE, YouView on EE TV (Sagemcom ITE) and YouView on Sony ITE.

3.80 We refer to these TSS as ‘candidate RTSS’ and the versions as ‘relevant versions’.

Technical functionality

What we said

3.81 In our SOP&M we said that we would generally consider a TSS to be capable of functioning as an RTSS if it is capable of:

- a) carrying DIPS;
- b) presenting IPS and programmes with different levels of prominence; and
- c) including features to ensure it is accessible to people with disabilities.⁸⁸

3.82 We also said that we would take into account the current capabilities of a TSS and any modifications that may be needed to carry out the above functions.⁸⁹

3.83 To determine whether our proposed candidate RTSS had the required technical functionality, we conducted a qualitative assessment of those TSS and their carriage, prominence and accessibility functions, using information from TSS providers together with an in-depth literature review of industry practices and in-house testing.

Carriage of DIPS

3.84 As IPS designation had not yet taken place, we examined whether a TSS would be capable of carrying the IPS that PSBs currently make available, including whether the TSS offered the elements of technical support which we considered necessary, namely:

- a) development (one-off) support to enable PSBs to develop IPS and deploy them on the TSS;
- b) maintenance (ongoing) support to ensure that the IPS and its content continue to function, to make updates and fix bugs / defects; and
- c) security (one-off and ongoing) support to enable PSBs to protect their content from unauthorised access and piracy.

3.85 We found that all our proposed candidate RTSS providers provided the technical support required, with some differences in how IPS are carried.⁹⁰

Presentation of IPS and programmes with different levels of prominence

3.86 In assessing whether a TSS is capable of presenting IPS and programmes with varying levels of prominence, we considered whether it has a UI that presents IPS and programmes through a range of means and the technical support needed to ensure that.

⁸⁶ [REDACTED]

⁸⁷ [REDACTED]

⁸⁸ [SOP&M](#), paragraph 1.21.

⁸⁹ [SOP&M](#), paragraph 1.22.

⁹⁰ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.73 – 3.76.

- 3.87 We explained that the technical support provided for this purpose varies depending on the requirements of both the TSS and DIPS providers.
- 3.88 Based on our assessment, we found that although some TSS present a relatively limited range of prominence features compared to others, all our proposed candidate RTSS had a UI that presented IPS and programmes with different levels of prominence and provided the necessary technical support.⁹¹

Inclusion of features to ensure it is accessible to disabled people

- 3.89 In assessing whether a TSS is capable of including accessibility features, we considered the basic functions used to ensure that these services are accessible to disabled people. These included navigational accessibility features (such as text-to-speech functionality and high contrast displays) and features to ensure that people are informed about, and able to make use of, access services (such as subtitles, audio description, signing).
- 3.90 We considered that all our proposed candidate RTSS were able to include features to ensure that they are accessible to disabled people. However, we noted that some present fewer accessibility features than others.⁹²
- 3.91 We asked stakeholders whether they agreed with our assessment of technical functionality.

What respondents said

- 3.92 There was broad agreement from respondents with our assessment of technical functionality. Virgin Media O2, for example, said that it considered that our criteria were appropriate and proportionate.⁹³
- 3.93 Some stakeholders highlighted the risk of TSS providers intentionally failing to satisfy our technical functionality criteria to avoid designation, for example by ‘hard coding’ apps in certain positions on their TSS (i.e. fixing app positions by embedding them into the code of the TSS) so that the TSS is not capable of altering the app’s position.⁹⁴
- 3.94 STV recommended that we add the ability to regionalise the TSS to our assessment of whether a TSS is capable of presenting IPS and programmes with different levels of prominence.⁹⁵
- 3.95 [redacted]⁹⁶

Our response

- 3.96 When recommending individual TSS for designation, we are required by the Act to assess whether these TSS are capable of functioning as RTSS. We note stakeholders’ concerns regarding the potential for TSS providers to exploit our technical functionality criteria in order to avoid designation. However, our SOP&M makes clear that, when conducting our

⁹¹ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.77 – 3.80.

⁹² [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.81 – 3.82.

⁹³ BBC response, p.6; Channel 4 response, p.4; CTVMA response, p.2; Everyone TV response, p.2; Name Withheld 3 response, p.3; STV response, p.3; Virgin Media O2 response, pp.2 and 4.

⁹⁴ Virgin Media O2 response, pp.2 and 4; [redacted].

⁹⁵ STV response, p.3.

⁹⁶ [redacted]

assessment, we will take into account both the current capabilities of the TSS and any modifications that may be needed to make it capable of functioning as an RTSS.⁹⁷

- 3.97 Regarding STV's suggestion, we do not consider that the ability to provide a regionalised service is necessary for a TSS to be capable of functioning as an RTSS. We are, however, considering regionalisation as part of our work on developing the Code of Practice.
- 3.98 [X] we recognise that TSS providers operate a range of commercial models including licensing arrangements where TSS providers may have less direct control over the ITE that their service is provided in connection with. [X]

Our conclusion

- 3.99 Having carefully considered responses provided by stakeholders, we do not consider that any changes are required to our proposed methodology for assessing technical functionality.
- 3.100 As Freely was not included in the list of TSS we proposed to recommend for designation in the Consultation, we have applied that methodology to assess whether Freely is capable of functioning as an RTSS. We have concluded that it is capable of carrying the current PSB IPS, presenting IPS and programmes with different levels of prominence and including accessibility features.
- 3.101 We therefore consider that relevant versions of the following 15 candidate RTSS are capable of functioning as RTSS (in alphabetical order): Amazon Fire TV OS, Android TV, Apple TV OS, Freely, Google TV, LG WebOS, Roku OS, Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen), Sky Entertainment OS, Sky Q, VIDAA OS, Virgin Media Horizon, Virgin Media TiVo on V6 ITE, YouView on EE TV (Sagemcom ITE), and YouView on Sony ITE.

Additional matters

What we said

- 3.102 In the SOP&M, we stated that we would consider whether it is appropriate to assess any additional factors on a case-by-case basis, taking into account our statutory duties and the circumstances at the time of our report.⁹⁸
- 3.103 We also noted that we may not recommend designation of a TSS that meets the threshold if its user numbers are declining and it is unlikely to stay above the threshold for a reasonable period of time after designation.⁹⁹
- 3.104 In response to the [consultation on our draft SOP&M](#), stakeholders suggested that we should consider demographic data as part of our assessment.¹⁰⁰ In light of those comments, in the Consultation we considered that the following additional matters should be part of our assessment:
- a) demographic factors; and
 - b) declining active usage of TSS.

⁹⁷ [SOP&M](#), paragraph 1.22.

⁹⁸ [SOP&M](#), paragraphs 1.23 – 1.24.

⁹⁹ [SOP&M](#), paragraph 1.18.

¹⁰⁰ Ofcom, 2025, [Designation of Television Selection Services](#), paragraph 3.19.

- 3.105 Our analysis indicated that variations in TSS usage between age groups, income levels, or across the UK's nations are not significant and would not affect our proposed designation approach.¹⁰¹
- 3.106 However, declining usage did affect our proposed recommendations. From annual active usage data over the past three years (2022-2024) we identified that Sky+ HD was not likely to remain above the threshold for a reasonable amount of time from a possible designation. As a result, we proposed not to recommend that Sky+ HD be designated.¹⁰²
- 3.107 We asked stakeholders whether they agreed with our assessment of additional matters and the conclusion we reached.

What respondents said

Sky+ HD

- 3.108 Sky disagreed with our proposal not to recommend Sky+ HD for designation. Although it acknowledged that the number of Sky+ HD users is falling, it argued that not recommending it for designation risks depriving a significant and vulnerable cohort of Sky's customers of PSB video-on-demand ('VoD') content.¹⁰³
- 3.109 To support this argument, Sky provided evidence that a large proportion of Sky+ HD customers are older and have been given many opportunities to upgrade to newer Sky products but had chosen not to do so. From this it inferred that customers may be nervous about switching to a different TSS with an unfamiliar UI.¹⁰⁴
- 3.110 [redacted].¹⁰⁵
- 3.111 Sky also provided evidence that Sky+ HD users watch a significant amount of PSB content.¹⁰⁶ [redacted].¹⁰⁷
- 3.112 Sky questioned our assessment that the impact of designating Sky+ HD in terms of potential costs, especially for DIPS providers, would outweigh the potential benefits for audiences on the basis that the PSBs already provide their VoD content for inclusion on Sky+ HD [redacted].¹⁰⁸

Android TV

- 3.113 Google queried our decision to recommend designating Android TV and considered that we should exclude it from designation on the same basis as Sky+ HD (i.e. that its users have been steadily declining).¹⁰⁹
- 3.114 Alternatively, Google asked for Android TV devices that do not carry Freeview Play or YouView to be excluded [redacted].¹¹⁰

¹⁰¹ [Consultation](#), paragraph 3.87 – 3.89.

¹⁰² [Consultation](#), paragraphs 3.90 – 3.91.

¹⁰³ Sky response, pp.3-4.

¹⁰⁴ [redacted] Sky response, pp.3-4.

¹⁰⁵ [redacted]

¹⁰⁶ Sky response, p.5. [redacted]

¹⁰⁷ [redacted]

¹⁰⁸ [redacted] Sky response, p.5.

¹⁰⁹ Google response, p.3.

¹¹⁰ Google response, p.3 [redacted].

[redacted]

3.115 [redacted]¹¹¹

Our response

Sky+ HD

3.116 As set out at paragraph 3.45, in the Consultation we considered that although Sky+ HD had a significant number of users in 2024, it was unlikely to remain above the significance threshold we had proposed for a reasonable amount of time following designation. Having reviewed more recent data on user numbers provided by Sky, we now consider that Sky+ HD is already below the threshold.

3.117 [redacted]

3.118 The Secretary of State may only designate a TSS on an individual basis if she considers that it has a significant number of users. As set out in paragraphs 2.18 – 2.22, we think that only TSS with a significant number of users should be designated and that designation on an individual basis is the best approach for this Report. Therefore, we have considered whether (even though the number of users of Sky+ HD is below the significance threshold of 700,000) the number of users should be regarded as significant for some other reason. In doing so, we have carefully considered Sky’s comments about why Sky+ HD should be designated, particularly the potential impact on older users.

3.119 Our analysis of the relevant consumer research¹¹² does not suggest that the proportion of Sky+ HD users aged 65 and over is unusually high when compared with other TSS,¹¹³ [redacted]¹¹⁴

3.120 [redacted]¹¹⁵¹¹⁶

3.121 [redacted]

3.122 [redacted]

3.123 Therefore, we do not think that Sky+ HD should be considered to have a significant number of users.

Android TV

3.124 [redacted]¹¹⁷ and the combined number of active users for Android TV versions 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 is above 700,000 [redacted]. So, we consider it likely that relevant versions of Android TV will remain above the threshold for a reasonable amount of time from a possible designation.

3.125 [redacted]

3.126 Therefore, we do not think that there is sufficient reason to exclude Android TV from our recommended RTSS.

¹¹¹ [redacted]

¹¹² Ofcom’s [Technology Tracker](#) and IPA Touchpoints.

¹¹³ [redacted]

¹¹⁴ [redacted]

¹¹⁵ [redacted]

¹¹⁶ [redacted]

¹¹⁷ [redacted]

[REDACTED]

3.127 [REDACTED]

3.128 [REDACTED]

3.129 [REDACTED]

Our conclusion

3.130 Having carefully considered the responses provided by stakeholders regarding our assessment of additional matters, we are of the view that: (a) Sky+ HD should not be designated and b) that Android TV [REDACTED] should be designated.

Other comments

3.131 Some stakeholders made comments that did not directly relate to the consultation questions, including comments about the implementation of the prominence regime in general and the format of DIPS.¹¹⁸

3.132 Where those comments are relevant to the Code of Practice and Guidance we are considering them as we develop those documents.

¹¹⁸ Name Withheld 3 response, p.2 [REDACTED].

4. Recommendations

Summary of our recommendations

- 4.1 As set out in Section 3, we have assessed the following matters specified in the Act:
- the number of UK users of a particular TSS and whether that number is significant;
 - the manner in which the service is used;
 - whether the service is capable of functioning as an RTSS, including any necessary modifications; and
 - any other matters we consider likely to affect these issues.
- 4.2 We recommend designation of the following 15 TSS plus any subsequent versions of these TSS (in alphabetical order):
- Amazon Fire TV OS 6, 7 and 8;
 - Android TV 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14;
 - Apple TV OS 18;
 - Freely;
 - Google TV 10, 11, 12 and 14;
 - LG WebOS 22, 23, 24 and 25;
 - Roku OS 14;
 - Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen) 7, 8 and 9;
 - Sky Entertainment OS;¹¹⁹
 - Sky Q;
 - VIDAA OS U6, 7, 8 and 9;
 - Virgin Media Horizon;¹²⁰
 - Virgin Media TiVo on V6 ITE;
 - YouView on EE TV (Sagemcom ITE); and
 - YouView on Sony ITE.

Potential implementation approach

What we said

- 4.3 In the Consultation, we set out a proposal for how our recommendations could be implemented by the Secretary of State in the secondary legislation (regulations) that she must make to designate TSS.¹²¹ Our suggestion was to define a TSS in scope by reference to the date on which the ITE it is carried on was first made available to members of the UK public. The relevant dates for each of the TSS we recommend for designation are set out in Table 1.
- 4.4 Following the Consultation, we have added Freely to Table 1 and updated the dates to reflect the changes to the relevant versions of the candidate RTSS.

¹¹⁹ [redacted]

¹²⁰ [redacted]

¹²¹ [Consultation](#), paragraphs 4.3 – 4.6 and Table 1.

What respondents said

- 4.5 One stakeholder asked for clarification on how the list in Table 1 of the Consultation related to the TSS versions set out in paragraph 4.2 of the Consultation.¹²²

Our response

- 4.6 For each TSS, Table 1 identifies the year in which the oldest ITE carrying relevant versions of that TSS was first made available on the UK market. To ensure that the table only captures relevant versions (as set out in paragraph 4.2) in light of the range of commercial practices and arrangements that exist in the market in terms of releasing new versions, the date is specific to each TSS.
- 4.7 For example, if the provider of TSS A released the relevant version of its TSS in 2022 and updated all ITE back to those first made available in 2020 to carry this version, then the relevant date would be 2020. The designation for TSS A could state “TSS A provided in connection with ITE first made available to members of the public in the UK on or after 1 January 2020”.
- 4.8 We determined the relevant date for each TSS we are recommending for designation by in-depth desk research of TSS providers’ and ITE retailers’ websites, requests for information to a range of TSS providers and stakeholder engagement.
- 4.9 We consider this approach to be a practical way in which the Secretary of State could designate the TSS we have recommended in paragraph 4.2. However, it is open to the Secretary of State to take an alternative approach.

¹²² [3<]

Our conclusion

Table 1: List of candidate RTSS, related providers and relevant dates (in alphabetical order by provider).

Candidate RTSS providers	Candidate RTSS
Amazon	Amazon Fire TV OS provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2018.
Apple	Apple TV OS provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2015.
Everyone TV	Freely provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 30 April 2024.
Google Alphabet	Android TV provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2019.
	Google TV provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2020.
LG	LG WebOS provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2022.
Roku	Roku OS provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2015.
Samsung	Samsung Smart Hub (Tizen) provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2023.
Sky	Sky Entertainment OS provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2021.
	Sky Q provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2016.
VIDAA	VIDAA OS provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2021.
Virgin Media	Virgin Media Horizon provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2020.
	Virgin Media on V6 ITE provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2016.
YouView	YouView on EE TV provided in connection with Sagemcom ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2021.
	YouView on Sony ITE provided in connection with ITE first made available on or after 01 January 2020.

A1. Legal Framework

Legal framework

- A1.1 This Annex sets out the statutory framework regarding the designation of television selection services ('TSS') under Part 3A of the Communications Act 2003 (the 'Act'), which was inserted into the Act by Part 2 of the Media Act 2024. This Annex is only a summary of the relevant provisions; it is not a substitute for reference to the statute.
- A1.2 Also relevant are Ofcom's general duties in carrying out its functions, to further the interests of citizens in relation to communications matters and consumers in relevant markets, where appropriate, by promoting competition.¹²³ In doing so, Ofcom must have regard to a number of matters including the desirability of promoting the fulfilment of the purposes of public service television broadcasting in the UK, the desirability of encouraging investment and innovation in relevant markets and the needs of persons with disabilities.¹²⁴
- A1.3 In performing its general duties, Ofcom must have regard to the principles under which regulatory activities should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent, and targeted only at cases in which action is needed, and any other principles appearing to Ofcom to represent the best regulatory practice.¹²⁵
- A1.4 As explained further below, TSS that are designated by the Secretary of State (regulated TSS or RTSS) will have to comply with various statutory obligations related to making available and prominent the internet programme services (IPS)¹²⁶ of the UK public service broadcasters (PSB) which are designated by Ofcom (designated IPS or DIPS).¹²⁷
- A1.5 Each PSB has an individual remit which they are required to fulfil.¹²⁸ The BBC is required to fulfil its mission to act in the public interest, serving all audiences through the provision of impartial, high-quality and distinctive output and services which inform, educate and entertain.¹²⁹ The individual remit for Channel 3 services, Channel 4 and Channel 5 is to

¹²³ Section 3(1) of the Act.

¹²⁴ Section 3(4)(a), (d) and (i) of the Act.

¹²⁵ Section 3(3) of the Act.

¹²⁶ An IPS is a reference to (a) an on-demand programme service where the programmes viewed by a user of the service are accessed by the user by means of the internet; (b) a non-UK on-demand programme service where the programmes viewed by a user of the service are accessed by the user by means of the internet; or (c) a service which satisfies the following requirements: (i) that the principal purpose of the service is the provision of programmes; (ii) that the programmes viewed by a user of the service are accessed by the user by means of the internet; and (iii) that the programmes it provides to a user of the service are contained in (1) such on-demand programme service as is described in part (a) of this footnote or such non-UK on-demand programme service as is described in part (b) of this footnote; and (2) another service which is, or two or more other services each of which is, such an on-demand programme service, such a non-UK on-demand programme service, or a service (other than those kinds of service) that consists of, or has as its principal purpose the provision of, programmes (section 362AA(10) and (11) of the Act).

¹²⁷ A DIPS is (a) an IPS provided by the BBC; (b) an IPS provided by a public service broadcaster other than the BBC and designated by Ofcom; or (c) an IPS provided by a person associated with a PSB and designated by Ofcom (section 362AA(1) of the Act).

¹²⁸ For each PSB, the programmes with which they fulfil their individual remits should be capable of being taken into account for the purposes of assessing the extent to which the UK TV remit is fulfilled and should constitute an adequate contribution to the fulfilment of the UK TV remit (section 264(4) of the Act).

¹²⁹ Paragraph 5 of the Royal Charter for the continuance of the BBC, December 2016.

make available a range of high quality and diverse programmes.¹³⁰ The individual remit for S4C is to make available a broad range of high quality and diverse programmes, with a substantial proportion in Welsh.¹³¹

Television selection services

A1.6 The services that may be designated are referred to as TSS. The Act defines a TSS as “a service or dissociable section of a service, provided by means of the internet and in connection with Internet Television Equipment (ITE), which consists of:

- a) the presentation of the IPS included in the service or the dissociable section of the service; and
- b) a facility that enables the user: (i) to make a selection between those IPS or programmes provided by those IPS or both; and (ii) to access the IPS or programme selected or both.¹³²

A1.7 As set out in Regulation 2 of the Internet Television Equipment Regulations 2024, ITE means smart TVs, set top boxes and streaming devices.¹³³

Regulated television selection services

A1.8 The Secretary of State has the power to designate TSS to be regulated and therefore subject to the statutory obligations set out in the Act. The Secretary of State may make regulations which:

- a) designate individual TSS (which we refer to as ‘individual designation’); or
- b) set out a description of TSS to be designated (which we refer to as ‘designation by description’).¹³⁴

A1.9 The Secretary of State may not designate a TSS by individual designation unless they consider that it is used by a significant number of members of the public in the UK.¹³⁵

A1.10 In regulations that designate by description, the Secretary of State may frame a description of TSS by reference to:

- a) a TSS being used by no fewer than such number of members of the public in the UK as may be specified in the regulations;
- b) the date on which a TSS is first made available to members of the public in the UK; and
- c) the functions that a TSS is capable of carrying out or may be made capable of carrying out.¹³⁶

¹³⁰ Sections 265(2) and 265(3) of the Act. For C4C these programmes in particular must demonstrate innovation, experimentation, and creativity; appeal to the tastes and interests of a culturally diverse society include a significant amount of educational content; and have a distinctive character.

¹³¹ Paragraph 3(2) of Part 2 of Schedule 12 to the Act.

¹³² Section 362AE(1) of the Act. The Secretary of State may lay regulations to amend the definition of ‘television selection service’ or ‘internet television equipment’ (section 362AE(7)).

¹³³ [The Internet Television Equipment Regulations 2024](#) (2024/1056).

¹³⁴ Section 362AF(1) of the Act.

¹³⁵ Section 362AF(2) of the Act.

¹³⁶ Section 362AF(3) of the Act.

Ofcom's report to the Secretary of State

- A1.11 Before the Secretary of State can make designation regulations, the Secretary of State must have received a report from Ofcom, containing Ofcom's recommendations on the exercise by the Secretary of State of their powers to make regulations to individually designate or to designate by description.
- A1.12 Ofcom may decide on its own initiative to provide the Secretary of State with a report, and may make recommendations in relation to the exercise of either or both powers.¹³⁷ Alternatively, the Secretary of State may request a report from Ofcom, in which case we must provide one.¹³⁸ When making such a request, the Secretary of State may provide Ofcom with a description of TSS they propose to designate and seek advice on that description.
- A1.13 When recommending individual designation, Ofcom's report must include our assessment of:
- a) the number of members of the public in the UK using the TSS in question and whether that number is significant;
 - b) the manner in which that TSS is used by such persons;
 - c) whether that TSS is capable of functioning as an RTSS and the modifications, if any, that are needed to make it so capable; and
 - d) such matters as Ofcom considers likely to affect the matters referred to above.¹³⁹
- A1.14 Ofcom's role in preparing reports for the Secretary of State is limited to recommendations on the Secretary of State's power to designate TSS. There is no statutory power for Ofcom itself to designate a TSS.¹⁴⁰
- A1.15 Any TSS that is designated by individual designation regulations will become an RTSS.

Ofcom's statement of principles and methods

- A1.16 Ofcom must prepare and publish a statement about the principles and methods we will apply in preparing a report to the Secretary of State making recommendations about the exercise of their powers to make designation regulations.¹⁴¹ This statement was published on 23 April 2025.¹⁴²
- A1.17 We may revise or replace that statement and must publish the revised or replaced statement.¹⁴³

Effect of designation

- A1.18 Where IPS and TSS are designated, the providers of those DIPS and RTSS must comply with the new regime. The provider of a DIPS will be the relevant PSB, or person associated with

¹³⁷ Section 362AG(1) of the Act.

¹³⁸ Section 362AG(2) and (3) of the Act.

¹³⁹ Section 362AG(4) of the Act.

¹⁴⁰ The position is different as regards the designation of IPS, where Ofcom has the power to designate IPS itself (section 362AA(2) of the Act).

¹⁴¹ Section 362AG(9) of the Act.

¹⁴² Ofcom, 2025, [Designation of Television Selection Services](#).

¹⁴³ Section 362AG(10) of the Act.

that PSB.¹⁴⁴ The provider of an RTSS will be the person who has general control over the manner in which the TSS presents to its users the IPS that are included in the service.¹⁴⁵

- A1.19 In order for an IPS offered by a PSB, other than the BBC, to be designated, Ofcom must be satisfied that it is appropriate to designate the service. Ofcom must also believe that the service makes, or would if designated, be capable of making a significant contribution to the fulfilment of the public service remit for the PSB channel; and that the public service remit content included is readily discoverable and is promoted by the IPS.¹⁴⁶
- A1.20 Providers of DIPS will be subject to a “must make available” obligation, and providers of RTSS will be subject to a “must include” obligation:
- A1.21 The “must make available” obligation means that a DIPS provider must offer its DIPS to every RTSS provider.¹⁴⁷ The DIPS provider must do its best to secure that, in relation to every RTSS, agreements are entered into and kept in force that ensure the service is included in the RTSS.¹⁴⁸
- A1.22 The “must include” obligation means that an RTSS provider must, in respect of each DIPS, enter into arrangements with the provider of the DIPS for the RTSS to include that DIPS and keep such arrangements in force.¹⁴⁹ RTSS providers will also be required to ensure that the DIPS and, where appropriate, content on the DIPS that contributes to the delivery of the PSB’s remit are given an appropriate degree of prominence on their services.¹⁵⁰ These services must also be accessible to those with disabilities (particularly those affecting sight or hearing).¹⁵¹ The Act requires Ofcom to issue a code of practice recommending actions that RTSS providers should take when seeking to ensure that the presentation of IPS to its users are compliant with those accessibility obligations.¹⁵²
- A1.23 Providers of both DIPS and RTSS have a duty to act consistently with the “agreement objectives” when negotiating the arrangements required to meet the requirements of their “must include” and “must make available” obligations.¹⁵³ The agreement objectives are that: (a) DIPS are given an appropriate degree of prominence within an RTSS (which includes public service remit content and any listed channel included in the DIPS);¹⁵⁴ (b) the arrangements between the providers do not adversely affect the ability of the provider of the PSB to fulfil the public service remit for its channel; and (c) arrangements do not disproportionately restrict how the provider of an RTSS may make innovations in the ways that users may select and access IPS.¹⁵⁵ The Act requires Ofcom to prepare and publish

¹⁴⁴ Section 362AA(2) of the Act.

¹⁴⁵ Section 362AE(5) of the Act. Section 362AE(6) of the Act says that the fact a TSS relies to any extent on algorithms to determine the prominence given to an IPS or any programme provided by the IPS does not prevent a person from having general control.

¹⁴⁶ Section 362AA(2) - (5) of the Act.

¹⁴⁷ Section 362AJ(1) of the Act. Section 362AJ(1) to (3) does not apply to the BBC.

¹⁴⁸ Section 362AJ(2) of the Act.

¹⁴⁹ Section 362AK of the Act.

¹⁵⁰ Section 362AO(1) and (3) of the Act.

¹⁵¹ Section 362AO(4) of the Act.

¹⁵² Section 362AP(1) of the Act.

¹⁵³ Sections 362AJ(3) and 362AK(2) of the Act.

¹⁵⁴ Section 362AM(2) of the Act.

¹⁵⁵ Section 362AM(1) of the Act.

guidance about how providers of DIPS and providers of RTSS may act consistently with the agreement objectives.¹⁵⁶

A1.24 The Act gives Ofcom a dispute resolution function¹⁵⁷ and enforcement powers.¹⁵⁸

Economic growth duty

A1.25 Section 108 of the Deregulation Act 2015 sets out Ofcom's duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth when exercising its regulatory functions. In order to consider the promotion of economic growth, Ofcom will exercise its regulatory functions in a way that ensures that:

- a) regulatory action is taken only when it is needed; and
- b) any action taken is proportionate.¹⁵⁹

A1.26 The government's statutory guidance on this duty recognises drivers of economic growth to include innovation and competition.

Public sector equality duty

A1.27 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the '2010 Act') imposes a duty on Ofcom, when carrying out its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct related to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation. The 2010 Act also requires Ofcom to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share specified protected characteristics and persons who do not.

A1.28 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the '1998 Act') also imposes a duty on Ofcom, when carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in the 1998 Act. Ofcom's Revised Northern Ireland Equality Scheme explains how we comply with our statutory duties under the 1998 Act.

Welsh language duty

A1.29 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 established a legal framework to impose duties on certain organisations to comply with standards in relation to the Welsh language. The standards issued to Ofcom are listed in Ofcom's compliance notice effective from 25 January 2017.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁶ Ofcom's guidance must also include how the BBC may act consistently with the agreement objectives in carrying out any of its duties under the BBC Charter and Agreement that are comparable to the requirement on other DIPS providers under section 362AJ(3) (section 362AL(2) of the Act).

¹⁵⁷ Sections 362AT to 362AY of the Act.

¹⁵⁸ Sections 362AZ to 362Z5 of the Act.

¹⁵⁹ Section 108(2)(b) of the Deregulation Act 2015.

¹⁶⁰ Ofcom, 2017, [Compliance Notice – Section 44 Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#).

A1.30 The Welsh Language Policy Making Standards require Ofcom to assess (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and (b) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, when formulating a new policy or reviewing or revising an existing policy.

A2. Data sources and research

A2.1 This Annex outlines the main data and research sources¹⁶¹ and associated methodologies used to inform Ofcom’s recommendations in this Report, as well as our broader analysis of consumer and industry trends in the connected TV platforms market.

Data measuring the number of users of TSS

Omdia (third-party market data)

Data provider

A2.2 Omdia, part of Informa Tech Target, is a research and consultancy company that specialises in tracking consumer and industry trends in technology markets, including the connected TV platforms market.

Methodology

A2.3 Omdia estimates the active installed base of TSS in the UK, defining ‘active’ as having been used by a consumer at least once in the past 12 months. The ITE devices on which the TSS is installed must have an active internet connection and be capable of delivering programming over the internet. Omdia uses a three-stage methodology to calculate its active installed base figures:

- a) **Device shipment tracking**, i.e. the movement of ITE products from warehouses to retail and distribution centres and ultimately to the customer, over a certain period. This data is derived from tracking companies in the ITE/TSS supply chain, such as panel manufacturers and hardware brands (Samsung, Panasonic, etc.), with information sourced from a combination of publicly released data and direct interviews with the companies.
- b) **Failure and replacement rate modelling**. The expected lifespan for smart TVs and streaming devices is established by Omdia on or around their release date, during the direct interviews carried out with the device brand owners. This initial information on anticipated lifecycle duration is used by Omdia to create failure-rate parameters, which are used to calculate an active installed base going forwards, beginning in the year in which the device was shipped. While the initial failure-rate parameters focus on the lifespan information provided at the outset by brand owners, thereafter Omdia monitors market developments on an ongoing basis, through desk research, the ongoing direct interviews with the device brand owners, and Omdia’s own consumer surveys. Its consumer surveys are carried out across key territories – including the UK – using a sample size of at least 2,400 respondents per market to ensure statistical significance. New information gained from these processes that shows replacement rates for those devices are higher or lower than initially anticipated is used to adjust the failure-rate parameters, and the active installed base will change accordingly.
- c) **Installed base modelling**. Once the number of retired devices is calculated, the shipment data is incorporated to establish the new active installed base. The difference

¹⁶¹ This Annex covers only data sources cited in this Report; we have also evaluated and analysed some additional relevant data sources, which have not been listed here.

between the number of shipped and retired devices constitutes the net additions, which may grow or contract depending on the device or market.

How Ofcom has used this data

- A2.4 Omdia’s active installed base data is consistent with our metric for ‘number of TSS installed ITE in UK homes’, which has been used as a proxy for ‘the number of members of public in the UK who use a TSS’. Omdia data has been used as one source for this proxy metric, along with TSS data (see below).
- A2.5 Where we did not issue statutory information requests to providers because we believed them to be highly likely below any threshold we would consider, we used Omdia data to estimate the number of active users of those TSS in the UK.

Limitations

- A2.6 As with any quantitative research estimates based on modelled inputs, data accuracy cannot be guaranteed. As such, we collected data for our chosen proxy metric (number of TSS installed on ITE in UK homes) from TSS providers, as outlined below, and compared the data against Omdia’s data. This allowed us to compare the data sources and ensure that the data we rely on is sufficiently robust. The data received from TSS providers showed a broadly consistent picture of the market. While there were some differences between the TSS provider data and Omdia data, the respective market positions of each TSS measured remained broadly consistent, regardless of how they were measured.

TSS provider data

Data providers

- A2.7 Based on our analysis of the market (including Omdia’s data) and stakeholder engagement, we identified relevant TSS providers and issued information requests to them using our statutory powers.¹⁶² We issued these requests to, and received data in response from, 15 TSS providers (each of which operates one or more TSS): Amazon, Apple, BT, Google, Everyone TV, LG, Panasonic, Roku, Samsung, Sky, TalkTalk, Titan OS, VIDAA, Virgin Media, and YouView.
- A2.8 There are other TSS providers in the UK but, based on the third-party market data we analysed and informal stakeholder engagement, we determined them to have relatively low numbers of users (according to our proxy metric). We therefore did not consider it appropriate, relevant and proportionate to issue requests for information to such providers.

Methodology

- A2.9 Each TSS provider that was issued an information request was requested to provide information on the number of active users of their TSS. For most of these information requests, we asked for a list of all relevant TSS that the provider offers to UK viewers as of the end of 2024 and, information on the number of ITE devices with each of those TSS installed and actively used for the specific periods. For 2022, 2023 and 2024, we asked for annual active usage figures (the number of devices that have been used to access the TSS at least once during the year) and average monthly active usage (the number of devices that have been used to access the TSS at least once in the past month, averaged across all

¹⁶² Using information gathering powers under section 362AS of the Act.

months in the year). Following the Consultation, we also asked some TSS providers – those that operate multiple versions of their TSS – to confirm latest usage figures for currently available versions plus two additional information requests:

- a) One for data regarding use of Freely because Omdia’s data suggested that its user numbers had increased significantly and might now be above our proposed threshold for a significant number of users. [X]
- b) One to confirm data provided by Sky [X].

A2.10 The specific method by which TSS providers collect this data themselves can vary but, broadly speaking, they track usage of their TSS via individual devices that are in use in UK households, for the purpose of supporting their business operations, e.g. for monitoring, monetisation, and back-office management, etc.

How Ofcom has used this data

A2.11 We used the data from TSS providers and Omdia for the metric ‘number of TSS installed on ITE in UK homes’ as a proxy to assess ‘the number of members of public in the UK who use a TSS’.

A2.12 We relied primarily on the data from TSS providers for our final analysis because it can measure the particular versions we are recommending for designation, so we expect this to be more accurate. While there were some differences between the TSS provider and Omdia data, the respective market positions of each TSS measured remained broadly consistent, regardless of how they were measured.

A2.13 TSS data has, in turn, also informed our assessment of where to set the threshold for a significant level of active use. The data has given us an understanding of not just individual TSS’ usage but also the size of the total market, i.e. the total number of actively used TSS installed on ITE across all the providers we have measured.

Other sources of evidence for our market analysis

Omdia (consumer research)

A2.14 Omdia, in addition to providing market data (see above), also conducts consumer research, which we have used to inform several areas of analysis. In particular, Omdia’s consumer survey was used as the main source of data for our equality impact assessment (see Annex 3). The survey – which focuses on take-up of, and media usage on, connected TV and video devices in the UK (and other markets) – is conducted in partnership with market research company Ipsos, using a UK sample of 2,400 adults aged 18-64. Controls are placed on age interlocked with gender, region, and working status to ensure that the survey results are nationally representative.

A2.15 Omdia’s consumer survey has also been used to analyse levels of TSS multihoming in the UK, i.e. proportions of UK consumers that use one or more different connected TV platforms.

3 Reasons / MTM

A2.16 3 Reasons, part of market research and strategy company MTM, provides data-driven analysis of the UK media landscape. This includes segmentation of UK households based on the type of ITE they use on their primary (main) TV set, as well as those that do not use ITE at all. We have used 3 Reasons’ estimates of connected TV households to inform our

understanding of TSS multihoming in the UK, by estimating the average number of ITE devices used in ITE households.

Barb

- A2.17 Contextual viewing data used in our analysis is sourced from Barb Audiences Ltd (Barb), the industry's standard for measuring broadcast TV, as well as understanding what people watch on online services in the home. Barb uses a hybrid approach, integrating people-based panel data with census-level online viewing data to provide the official broadcast TV measurement for the industry. Barb's panel consists of a nationally representative panel that completed an expansion to approximately 7,000 homes (approximately 16,000 individuals) in 2024.
- A2.18 The data that Barb collects includes viewing of broadcast TV through TV sets and via any devices attached to TV sets, such as computers, streaming devices, or set-top boxes. Barb also captures device-based 'big data' whenever anyone in the UK watches a broadcaster IPS service on a connected device, as well as some viewing data for online streaming services (video-sharing platforms and IPS) on TV sets and for devices not connected to the TV being watched at home via Wi-Fi. Barb does not capture out-of-home viewing.
- A2.19 Most figures show viewing averages for all viewers aged 4+, the standard universe for the Barb currency; where other age breakdowns have been used, this is clearly stated. Barb analysis has been analysed using the AdvantEdge TV analysis software.

A3. Impact assessments

Assessing the impacts of our proposals

- A3.1 Section 7 of the Communications Act 2003 (the ‘Act’) requires us to carry out and publish an assessment of the envisioned impact of implementing a proposal which would be likely to have a significant impact on businesses or the general public, or when there is a major change in Ofcom’s activities. Impact assessments help us to understand the policy decisions we have decided to take and why we consider those decisions best fulfil our applicable duties and objectives in the least intrusive way. Our [impact assessment guidance](#) sets out our general approach to how we assess and present the impact of our proposed decisions.
- A3.2 The relevant duties in relation to this Report are set out in Annex 2 and Section 3 of this document presents the assessment of the likely impacts of our recommendations. The recommendations in this Report are prepared for the purposes of an advisory function where the decision on how the recommendations in our Report will be implemented will be taken by the Secretary of State.
- A3.3 In the Consultation we considered the potential impacts of our recommendations including on TSS providers, PSBs and audiences. We have taken into account stakeholder comments, including those related to our assessment of these impacts when preparing this Report and have responded to those comments in Section 3.
- A3.4 We have also taken into account changes to our draft report and recommendations when assessing the impact of this Report, including changes to the TSS which we are recommending for designation (with the addition of Freely) and the TSS versions which we are included in our recommendations. These changes are the result of applying our framework, as proposed in the Consultation, using the latest and most accurate available data.

Equality impact assessment

- A3.5 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the ‘2010 Act’) imposes a duty on Ofcom, when carrying out its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimization and other prohibited conduct related to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation. The 2010 Act also requires Ofcom to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share specified protected characteristics and persons who do not.
- A3.6 Ofcom has separate but complementary duties under Northern Ireland’s equality legislation.¹⁶³ This requires Ofcom to screen policies for their impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations in each of the nine equality categories identified for Northern Ireland.

¹⁶³ Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

- A3.7 We have given careful consideration to whether the recommendations in this document will have a particular impact on persons sharing protected characteristics (including race, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership and religion or belief in the UK and also dependents and political opinion in Northern Ireland), and in particular whether they may discriminate against such persons or impact on equality of opportunity or good relations. This assessment helps us comply with our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Northern Ireland Act 1998.
- A3.8 As part of our assessment, we have examined whether persons sharing protected characteristics may be disproportionately impacted by our designation recommendations. Using consumer survey data from Omdia, we analysed device usage and brand penetration across different age and income demographics, and by UK nation. By identifying device brands, we inferred the popularity of specific TSS. Our analysis focused on smart TVs and streaming devices, providing a structured view of how audiences engage with different platforms.
- A3.9 Our findings indicate that brand popularity is largely uniform across age groups, income brackets, and nation. No single brand demonstrated particular popularity among a specific age group, socio-economic demographic or nation, suggesting that designation does not need to account for demographic-driven platform preferences. Similarly, analysis of TSS usage across different UK audience segments showed no significant variations between age groups, income levels, or across the nations.
- A3.10 As set out in paragraphs 3.116 – 3.123, following the Consultation, we have carefully considered Sky’s concerns about the impact of not recommending Sky+ HD for designation on vulnerable older users and concluded that it would not disproportionately impact older TSS users.
- A3.11 Consequently, we believe that there is no need to recommend designation of platforms based on their appeal to particular groups nor that our proposed approach to designation unduly impacts certain demographic groups.

Welsh language

- A3.12 The Welsh language has official status in Wales.¹⁶⁴ To give effect to this, certain public bodies, including Ofcom, are required to comply with Welsh language standards in relation to the use of Welsh, including the general principle that Welsh should not be treated less favourably than English in Wales.¹⁶⁵ Accordingly, we have considered the potential impact of our Report on (i) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language; and (ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.
- A3.13 Informed by our analysis of demographic factors outlined in paragraph 3.105 and in the Equality Impact Assessment above, we consider that the recommendations in this Report do not treat the Welsh language differently to the English language or have any impact on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language. We expect that for Welsh language speakers, the new regime will benefit them by ensuring they have access to PSB content catering to Welsh speaking audiences.

¹⁶⁴ Section 1(1), Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

¹⁶⁵ The Welsh language standards with which Ofcom is required to comply are available on [our website](#).