

BPD3/02/11/1
Submission

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: 14 February 2002 17:22
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: STREET SUE; RAMSAY ANDREW; KAHN DIANA;
 BUSH BILL; MACKENZIE RUTH; DE VAL PETER;
 [REDACTED]

Subject: OPPORTUNITY & IMPLICATIONS OF REQUIRING DISTRIBUTORS OF BROADCASTING SERVICES BY SATELLITE TO CARRY PSB

The Secretary of State has seen your submission of 8 February concerning how public service channels continue to be available free to all viewers after switchover, and has agreed in principle the recommendations that:

- satellite service distributors provide the public service channels free to their subscribers, and offer their Conditional Access System (CAS) on Fair Reasonable and non Discriminatory (FRND) terms to broadcasters, and
- at switchover, the public service broadcasters collectively to bear the cost of the "solus card" for people who must rely on satellite for receiving televisions because they cannot receive terrestrial signals.

This recommendation was spelt out in paragraph 15 of the submission.

However, the Secretary of State was mindful that these provisions would not be needed until switchover, and mindful of the many uncertainties, thought that they should be capable of being brought into effect by commencement order later than the bulk of the Bill. The Secretary of State agreed that the provisions should also include an order making power to allowing to vary these provisions in the light of technological and market developments, along the lines of paragraph 8 in the submission.

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 Private Secretary
 Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport
 [REDACTED]