

Response to Digital UK (“DUK”) Consultation on revised rules on the allocation of LCNs to public service channels dated 3 June 2020 (the “Consultation”) on behalf of ITV, ITV HD, ITV+1, ITV2, ITV2+1, ITVBe, ITVBe+1, ITV3, ITV3+1, ITV4, ITV4+1 and CITV (“ITV Channels”)

Introduction

ITV Broadcasting Limited (“ITV” or “we”), on behalf of each of the ITV Channels on the DTT platform, recognises DUK’s objective of developing its listings and applying the LCN Policy for the long-term benefit of the DTT platform, in the interests of viewers and in accordance with the fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory requirements of the Ofcom EPG Code.

With the above objective in mind, ITV broadly supports the proposals set out in the Consultation and welcomes the opportunity to respond to the questions set out in the Consultation.

Response to Consultation Questions

Consultation question: Do you agree with Digital UK’s proposed amendments to Section 5.1 of the LCN Policy?

ITV agrees with DUK’s proposed amendments. It is absolutely critical that DUK’s EPG Policy sets out fair, clear and transparent rules for the allocation of EPG slots, both to PSB and non-PSB channels, enabling everyone in the market to understand how decisions on listings will be made. The amended Section 5.1 delivers this, as it sets out sensible principles, namely: to comply with Ofcom’s obligations; to assign a lower LCN if one is vacant; a default approach of creating a slot by moving channels up by one LCN each; and to consult on one or more other methods if DUK considers them appropriate.

Consultation question: Do you agree with Digital UK’s proposed method and implementation plans for creating a slot for BBC Four in the first 24 LCNs?

ITV agrees with DUK’s proposed method for creating a slot at LCN 24 for BBC Four in Scotland, which is in line with DUK’s proposed revised principles.

ITV agrees that moving the affected channels up by one slot each across the whole of the UK is proportionate and reasonable. ITV agrees with the implementation plans.