

Lord Young of Norwood Green

Minister for Postal Affairs and
Employment Relations

Peter Luff MP
Chair - Business, Innovation and Skills Committee
7 Millbank
London SW1P 3JA

1 March 2010

Dear Peter;

Digital Economy Bill – issues arising from HoL Committee Stage

As you know the Department, together with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, intends to implement aspects of the Government's policies as set out in the Digital Britain White Paper (Cm 7650) through the Digital Economy Bill [HL] 2009-10.

There were specific issues raised at the debates before the Committee of the House, and I have written to Peers individually to address their concerns. Other Parliamentarians may find these explanations helpful toward their understanding of the Bill, so I will be placing copies in the Libraries of the House for their reference. Arrangements will also be made for copies to be available in the Printed Paper Office.

The letters, and any accompanying factsheets, are addressed to:

General duties of Ofcom

- Lord Howard on mobile network resilience; dated 15 January 2010
- Lord Attlee on the costs and benefits of the Galileo system; dated 15 January 2010
- All Peers on the Government amendments on clause 1; the promotion of investment, and clause 2; periodic reports by Ofcom on infrastructure, dated 22 February 2010
- Lord Howard on the definition of public service media content provided by clause 1; dated 9 February 2010
- Lord Gordon of Strathblane on Ofcom reporting duties to cover media mergers; dated 25 February 2010

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Online infringement of copyright

- All Peers on the Government's proposed Online Infringement of Copyright amendments for Report, including factsheets on: appeals and defences; balance between code and the Bill, and other issues covered by Government amendments tabled for Report Stage; dated 23 February 2010
- All Peers on Libraries, Universities and wi-fi providers; dated 23 February 2010
- All Peers, attaching letters from Bridget Prentice MP and the Solicitor's Regulation Authority, regarding the conduct of certain law firms who pursue individuals for copyright infringement claims on behalf of third parties; dated 25 February 2010

Powers in relation to internet domain registries

- Lord Lucas on internet domain registries; clause 18; dated 23 February 2010
- Lord Howard on the appointment of the interim manager of domain names registry; dated 23 February 2010

Channel 4 Corporation

- Baroness Bonham-Carter on the non-linear content of C4C; dated 22 February 2010
- Lord Howard on C4C functions; dated 22 February 2010

Independently Funded News Consortia

- All Peers, further factsheet on IFNCs; dated 25 February 2010

Independent radio services

- Lord Gordon of Strathblane on radio media ownership rules; dated 16 February 2010
- Lord Bishop of Manchester on proposed changes to localness regulations on radio; dated 16 February 2010
- Lord Low on Digital Switchover Help Scheme; dated 8 February 2010

Access to electromagnetic spectrum

- Baroness Miller on spectrum work carried out by National Police Improvement Agency; dated 17 February 2010
- Lord Lucas on harmonising spectrum for emergency services across Europe; dated 17 February 2010
- Lord Clement-Jones on radio mikes; dated 25 February 2010
- Lord Clement-Jones with a revised version of the spectrum factsheet; dated 22 February 2010

Video recordings

- Baroness Howe on the Government's position on access to pornographic material on UK-based video on demand services; dated 22 February 2010
- Lord de Mauley on the Conservatives' concerns on section 2(2) of the Video Recordings Act; dated 22 February 2010

- All Peers enclosing a new factsheet: Designated authorities – allocating works between BBFC and the VSC; sent 22 February 2010

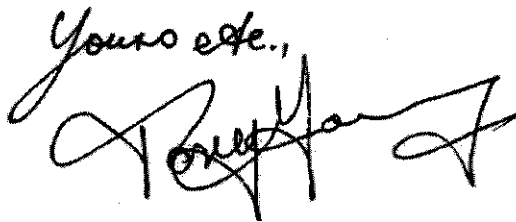
Copyright licensing

- Lord Howard and Lord de Mauley on copyright owner opt out; dated 17 February 2010
- Lord Lucas on copyright other issues; dated 15 February 2010
- Lord Clement-Jones on clause 42, in regards to photographers; dated 23 February 2010
- All Peers, enclosing a new factsheet on clause 42; dated 22 February 2010

All of these letters can be found on the digital economy Bill website:

www.bis.gov.uk/digitaleconomybill/letters and

www.bis.gov.uk/digitaleconomybill/factsheets. Laura Williams is the Digital Economy Bill Manager, and she can be contacted on 020 7215 0276 should your clerk require any further details.

Yours etc.,


Tony Young
Lord Young of Norwood Green