

**UK Film Council
Response to
The Department for Business, Skills and Innovation
Consultation On a Direction to Ofcom to Implement the
Wireless Radio Spectrum Modernisation Programme**

February 2010

1. The UK Film Council is the Government-backed lead agency for film in the UK ensuring that the economic, cultural and educational aspects of film are effectively represented at home and abroad. The Board of Directors, appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, oversees the work of the UK Film Council and provides advice to the Government on film.

2. We welcome the opportunity to make a short overall statement in response to this consultation.

3. The UK Film Council recognises the importance of spectrum modernisation in order to deliver optimal value in a digital world. However, we are aware of the specific and serious concerns raised by organisations representing the Programme Making and Special Events Sector (PMSE) over aspects of current proposed policy. We believe that the concerns of these organisations are legitimate and that it is crucial that the issues raised are resolved to the satisfaction of the PMSE sector given the economic and cultural value represented by filmmaking, other forms of programme-making and live events.

4. We urge the Government to listen very closely to the concerns being raised by these organisations - most notably in respect of the funding packages being proposed to cover the costs of migration away from existing frequencies, and the transitional dates for migration from those frequencies.

5. When the Government refers in the consultation document to the fact that it will “meet the legitimate costs of broadcasters and PMSE users who were required to vacate channels 61, 62 and 69” we would underline the importance of ensuring that this involves full funding on a like-for-like basis.¹ The UK Film Council urges the Government to work with PMSE representatives to ensure Ofcom is directed to deliver policies that meet the needs of all PMSE users. This will help to ensure the sustainability of this sector which makes a vital contribution to the content production industries in the UK.

6. The UK Film Council would be happy to supply any further information on these issues, as they relate to film, which might be helpful to the Government.

¹ <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file53061.pdf> paragraph 3.18,