



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
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Dear Jan,

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 May to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP, regarding important concerns about the future of digital terrestrial television (DTT), otherwise known as Freeview. I am responding as the Minister for Media. I apologise for the delay of my reply.

It may be helpful to begin by reassuring you that Parliament has legislated to secure the continuity of DTT until at least 2034 and no decision has been made about what happens beyond this.

The government recognises the vital role television plays in the lives of people across the UK and that millions of households continue to rely on DTT. At the same time, many of us are choosing to watch some or all of our TV over the internet, also known as internet protocol television. This shift is resulting in more choice and a better experience for audiences, but it is also creating financial pressures for our public service broadcasters. For this reason, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is now undertaking a project to assess the future of DTT after 2034. Before any decision is made close consideration will be given to how any changes would impact audiences, especially those who are older and rely on DTT.

I am committed to ensuring that as many people as possible can continue to watch television in a way that suits them. As you importantly identify, digital inclusion is a complex issue, spanning access to broadband, services being sufficiently easy to use, and individuals feeling confident in their use of them. DCMS is working closely with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to ensure all aspects of digital inclusion are considered at every stage of the decision-making process.

I hope the above provides reassurance that the government understands your organisation's concerns on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts

