



6 March 2012

Dear Respondent

Thank you for your response to the Government's consultation on the telecoms appeals framework. I wanted to update you on our consideration of responses received.

The consultation focused on an issue that I know is of concern to all of you and this was evident in the strength of feeling in the replies received.

I remain concerned about the number and length of appeals against Ofcom's decisions and the impact this has on Ofcom's ability to regulate effectively in the best interests of consumers. However I am concerned about the potential impact any legislative changes might have on industry so I do not propose to change the legislation at the common commencement date in April this year.

There is no doubt that a more streamlined process would benefit everyone but having considered the responses and the issues raised therein I am not yet convinced that changing the standard of appeal (to 'Judicial Review with merits') will, on its own, achieve the desired aims of faster decision-making at Ofcom and a reduction in the time and cost spent on appeals.

I should stress that this does not mean that legislative change is ruled out. If practical changes to process and ways of working cannot achieve the desired objectives then legislation will be required. I would like to see a tangible improvement in the appeals process and my officials will be in touch with you to discuss this further.



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of life for all

We are in the process of publishing all non-confidential responses received on our website and I intend to issue a formal government response to the consultation in March.

I am grateful for your contribution on this issue and I look forward to your continued engagement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Vaizey'.

Ed Vaizey MP
Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries