

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 01 March 2017 11:31  
**To:** Enforcement  
**Subject:** Illicit IPTV Streaming Devices – Call for Views

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged  
  
**Categories:** IPTV call for views

Good morning,

[REDACTED] I am a former team member (nickname [REDACTED]) of the open-source Kodi software application.

I have recently resigned my post as part of the Kodi team, but would like to submit a response to this consultation as I have experience in trying to stop the selling of boxes in the UK as part of my former team duties as one of only 3 UK based team members.

As you probably know, Kodi is simply a media player, that has the ability to be extended with Add-ons. Kodi has a strict zero-tolerance policy to any Add-ons which violate copyright on their official websites. Enforcement on these sites is easy enough but we found it particularly difficult to enforce this policy on large 3rd party websites, namely:

**Ebay:** Pre-configured "Fully Loaded" boxes available for sale (sent multiple take down requests which were ignored, no legal method available)

**Amazon:** Pre-configured "Fully Loaded" boxes available for sale (sent multiple take down requests which were ignored, no legal method available)

**Youtube:** Guides on installing piracy Add-ons (videos claiming to be from the Kodi team advertising IPTV boxes that had nothing to do with us. Takedown procedure requested but always denied)

As a non profit, voluntary organization we simply did not have the resources to chase up the sellers individually.

I personally think the law is sufficient when it comes to prosecuting people selling devices, but I do not think the law backs up organizations who wish to block the sale from large American based websites such as Amazon, eBay etc.

Regarding the scale of the problem, the last statistics I saw on the mirror servers showed around 77 million installations worldwide. The UK is the 3rd most popular country in our stats after Germany and the USA. The UK makes up about 6.57% of the software's userbase. It is important to understand that not all these users will be for "IPTV" boxes, but we believe the largest userbase does come from pre-configured android boxes sold on Ebay and Amazon.

Kodi as an organization even tried to Trademark the name "Kodi" to take down these sellers and video authors but that also seemed not to be enough.

I would suggest simply making agreements with Amazon, Ebay and Youtube that selling or advertising these devices is not allowed under existing UK laws in a similar way that knives and weapons are banned for eBay. This is a case of agreeing with these companies, rather than needing any new laws.

The blocking of websites has had a particularly frustrating effect of moving people on to these IPTV boxes because they work via IP addresses and support VPN connections. It is a typical case of a law pushing people onto a different system that is much harder to control.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Former Kodi UK team member)