

23rd February 2007

Dear BECTU member

I have taken the unusual step of sending you an email about an important issue affecting our industry.

**Your livelihood is under threat!**

**The government's Digital Dividend Review (DDR), which in future would allow only digital broadcasting, will put your livelihood at risk. Unless current proposals are withdrawn, the impact on our industry would result in probable JOB LOSSES for BECTU Members.**

**Unless we as a Union add our support to the campaign to highlight the unintentional consequences of the DDR, live events in the UK will never be the same again.**

The Government is currently making preparations for the switch over to Digital TV broadcasting. However, what many of you may not know is that as a result of this changeover, the entertainment industry will be directly affected.

The live entertainment industry relies heavily on **wireless microphones, in ear devices and wireless talk back systems**. This equipment is fundamental to many live performances, from West End musicals through to live broadcast and film. Once the switchover to Digital occurs, this equipment will be useless.

This is because the equipment relies on the radio spectrum that it currently shares with analogue TV. Under Government plans this vacated spectrum will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. It is unlikely that those that rely on this equipment - the **Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) sector** will be able to compete with the many organisations, like mobile phone contractors, that will bid for vacated spectrum.

**If we do not add our weight to this campaign, we will be directly affected.** Modern production standards will be impossible. Live musical performances of all genres will be adversely affected. The UK currently enjoys a global reputation for quality live music. If the DDR goes ahead without allowances for current spectrum users, this reputation will be seriously undermined.

Help us alert the Government to what is at stake by writing to your local MP. Attached is a template letter, that with a little editing you can send off to your MP. **Please do this now.** The letter will ask the MP to sign an Early Day Motion (EDM) that calls for the Government to save the UK Entertainment Industry. The more MP's signatures we get, the stronger our campaign will be.

To identify and contact your MP please go to <http://www.upmystreet.com/commons/l/>

To sign the online petition please go to <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/PMSEpectrum/>

For the more technically minded I am including a copy of John Howcroft's letter in which he explains the problem and lists a number of high profile events among the many thousands that will be lost if this "sell off" is allowed to go ahead.

Please see the BECTU website [www.bectu.org.uk](http://www.bectu.org.uk) for news as the **Campaign gathers momentum**

**Everyone's support is needed. Please contact your MP as a matter of urgency.**

Yours sincerely

Tony Norton  
National Official  
BECTU