Ofcom’s Draft Annual Plan 2009/10

14 January 2009
Agenda

• Welcome  Ed Richards

• Ofcom’s 2009/10 proposed plan  Peter Phillips

• Q&A  Ofcom panel
Ofcom’s strategic framework and the changing communications sector
The communications sector is facing significant change

- The communications sector is not immune from the challenging economic climate
- Yet innovation is still taking place and convergence is continuing apace
- We are alert to the changing circumstances and will respond quickly to any resulting consumer harm
- Our regulatory principles remain critical to our work programme
- We also intend to support forthcoming government initiatives in the communications sector
Ofcom’s current strategic framework: key objectives

- Driving forward a market-based approach to spectrum
- Delivering public interest objectives as platforms and services converge
- Empowering citizens and consumers and improving regulatory compliance where necessary
- Promoting competition and innovation in converging markets
Spectrum is a key resource for existing and new services

- Wireless services continue to grow in popularity
- Innovation opens possibilities for more uses of spectrum
- A market-based approach allows the best use of spectrum
- We aim to release to the market some key spectrum bands in the course of 2009/10

Our liberalisation programme will enable innovative spectrum uses
Competition and innovation deliver consumer benefits

- Competition is driving down prices across the communications sector
- Providers are launching exciting new services while new platforms are increasing consumer choice
- Nevertheless we have to continue regulating traditional bottlenecks…
- …and to provide a clear, stable environment to encourage investment and innovation

We will continue to promote sustainable competition in all the markets we regulate
Delivering public interest objectives remains crucial

- Convergence poses challenges to traditional models of delivering public interest objectives
- Worsening economic conditions may cause additional pressure
- We are also responding to calls to tackle public interest issues related to online media
- Access and inclusion remain a priority

We aim for sustainable outcomes in the delivery of traditional and new public objectives
Consumer empowerment is as important as ever

- The difficult economic climate may create incentives for taking advantage of uninformed consumers
- Consumer information and media literacy are key to minimising these risks
- Swift and firm enforcement action is important to maintaining consumer confidence
- We also aim to address the remaining barriers to switching

We will be vigilant of new possible sources of consumer and citizens harm
Work programme for 2009/10
Policy priorities

- Driving forward a market-based approach to spectrum
  - Releasing spectrum, including the digital dividend

- Promoting competition and innovation in converging markets
  - Promoting competition in fixed telecoms
  - Promoting competition in pay TV
  - Enabling clear regulation for next generation access and core networks
  - Assessing our regulatory approach in mobile

- Delivering public interest objectives as platforms and services converge
  - Promoting access and inclusion
  - Preparing for the future of public service broadcasting
  - Supporting the evolution of radio

- Empowering citizens and consumers and improving regulatory compliance where necessary
  - Promoting media literacy
  - Developing and enforcing consumer protection policies
### Other major work areas

- **Driving forward a market-based approach to spectrum**
- **Delivering international spectrum goals**
- **Supporting the development of spectrum trading and liberalisation**
- **Promoting competition and innovation in converging markets**
- **Business Markets**
  - Supporting the Digital Switchover
  - Supporting new approaches for online issues
- **Delivering public interest objectives as platforms and services converge**
- **Empowering citizens and consumers and improving regulatory compliance where necessary**
- **Enforcing competition and resolving disputes**
- **Promoting information and improving switching procedures**
Cross-cutting objectives

- Simplifying regulation and minimising administrative burdens
- Maximising our impact on European and wider international policy development
- Preparing Ofcom’s new strategic framework
We will continue to improve core services for stakeholders

• Keeping spectrum free of interference
• Licensing access to spectrum
• Responding to public enquiries and complaints
• Allocating telephone number ranges
• Providing information services
• Publishing market research and analysis
• Preparation for the London Olympics
Proposed work programme for 2009/10
Next steps

• Public consultation events across the UK
• Consultation closes on 12 February
• Final Plan published at the end of March
Q&A session
Ofcom panel

- Jackie Caspary  Director, Central Operations
- Martin Donnelly  Partner, International Relations
- Stuart McIntosh  Partner, Competition
- Claudio Pollack  Consumer Policy Director
- Stewart Purvis  Partner, Content and Standards
- Philip Rutnam  Partner, Spectrum Policy Group