



Dear Secretary of State,

Congratulations on your reappointment at a crucial time for telecoms and media services. We wish you the best of success in your role. We write as a coalition of organisations passionate about ensuring a strong future for terrestrial TV and radio broadcasting delivered through an aerial into people's homes. It is THE most popular way the UK population accesses its entertainment and news up and down the country. Our ask is a clear and unambiguous commitment for at least a generation, if not beyond, to preserve these services.

Broadcast TV and radio are part of the daily routine of tens of millions of people across the UK – nine out of ten adults listen to radio at least once a week and nearly half the households in the UK regularly access television through an aerial. These services bind us together as a people, whether it is through national moments that matter like the Queen's State Funeral and Jubilee or celebrating national success like the Women's Euro Final. It is also abundantly clear our nation recognises the importance of these services - a recent Ipsos study showed that **90%** of adults in Great Britain believe these broadcast services should be supported into the future.

Now is a critical moment to guarantee them for the long-term.

As the Government has acknowledged, the cost-of-living challenge will be with us for a long time to come. With the increasing pressure on household budgets for the foreseeable future, it will no doubt be your focus to protect services that deliver the best value for money and impact the widest group of people. The brilliant thing about Freeview TV and radio is that it offers great value for money. Unlike online streaming services, Freeview TV does not require a monthly subscription, superfast broadband, or expensive mobile data. It is also no surprise that those who value broadcast services the most are often those who have the least: older people, those in more isolated rural areas or on lower incomes. Our recent polling across a geographically diverse range of communities shows that among families who watch broadcast TV, **82%** value it as a cost-effective form of entertainment.

The Government is only committed to these services until the early 2030s. On questions of critical national infrastructure, that is closer than it seems. We have seen with Europe's energy security the consequences of a failure to take the right long-term decisions. And the best thing about these services is that they do not put a burden on the public purse; they just require confidence around the longevity of their existence which will automatically attract investments, innovation and private sector support. Next year, Ofcom will represent the UK at the World Radio Communication Conference (WRC23) in Dubai. It is where countries will decide whether the spectrum now used by TV should be allocated to other technologies. To protect broadcast services for the future, we must speak with one clear voice to fight to safeguard the spectrum it uses and ensure that no changes are agreed at WRC23.

We therefore ask that you make a strong political commitment to keep broadcast TV and radio universally available until at least 2040. The voices of millions who rely on these services must be heard when making this important decision for our country.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shuja Khan".

Shuja Khan
CEO of Arqiva
(On behalf of the Broadcast2040+ coalition)



SILVER VOICES