



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

28 August 2026

Dear Lisa,

We write to urge you to protect the free-to-air terrestrial television that millions of our constituents rely on. Your Department's Green Paper sets out two potential futures: switch terrestrial television off in 2034 or extend it to 2044. We urge you to choose 2044.

The consequences of getting this decision wrong would be severe for our constituents. A premature switch-off in 2034 risks cutting five million households off from a television service they rely on, imposing billions in upfront and rolling costs on the taxpayer, driving up household bills, and leaving the nation weaker and less resilient in times of emergency.

The Government should not take those risks when a credible, costed and lower-risk alternative is on the table.

The people who depend on the aerial on the roof are many of the most vulnerable: older people and families on tight budgets, people with disabilities, rural, coastal and island communities across the United Kingdom, along with the many homes with no reliable or affordable broadband. For them, terrestrial television is how they follow the news, watch sport, and stay part of national life.

Protecting terrestrial TV is not about holding back digital change. Getting more people online is the right aim, but this should be achieved by removing the barriers to access, not through a forced switch-off of a universal service which millions depend on.

A 2034 switch-off would force many of those households to pay for high-speed broadband, and often new equipment, simply to keep watching television they now receive free-to-air. That creates an effective paywall around a universal service that has been available to every home for generations.

Terrestrial television also makes a major contribution to our national resilience, as one of the most efficient and reliable ways to reach the whole country with trusted information, including in emergencies, and as part of a wider network alongside radio which would be negatively impacted if television was turned off. As Britain grows more dependent on online services, dismantling a proven universal system before every home has an alternative would be a serious mistake and undermine our communications resilience.

The 2044 option represents a credible plan to manage change safely and responsibly. It protects choice, gives households certainty, reduces broadcasting costs for industry and protects the radio sector, and lets a move to IP television happen at a safe pace. We ask the Government to commit clearly to 2044 and to protect free-to-air terrestrial television for the millions of our constituents who rely on it.

Best wishes,

Luke Akehurst
Dan Aldridge
Jess Asato
Josh Babarinde
Harriett Baldwin
Paula Barker
Saqib Bhatti
Bob Blackman
Jonathan Brash
Irene Campbell
Markus Campbell-Savours
Sarah Champion
John Cooper
Ann Davies
Josh Dean
Neil Duncan-Jordan
Cat Eccles
Daniel Francis
Zöe Franklin
Sir Ashley Fox
Allison Gardner
Richard Holden
Leigh Ingham
Terry Jermy
Katie Lam
John Lamont
Andy MacNae
Perran Moon
Joe Morris
David Mundell
Andrew Murrison
Kate Osborne
Yasmin Qureshi
Andrew Ranger
Steve Reed
Dave Robertson
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Alec Shelbrooke
Gurinder Singh Josan
Cat Smith
Sarah Smith
Julian Smith
Alex Sobel
Sir Desmond Swayne
Rachel Taylor
Bradley Thomas
Karl Turner
Steve Witherden