

Digital Dividend Public Consultation Response

Green Party (England/Wales)

Darren Johnson, party spokesperson, trade and industry

July 20 2009

The Green Party of England and Wales welcomes the consultation on the opportunities presented by digital television, and supports the actions proposed.

However, as we said in our response to the recent consultation leading to the Digital Britain report an important additional element is for member states to consider, and act upon, the impact on energy use in these regulatory decisions. This would be fully in accord with European policy on carbon impact assessments.

There are a number of areas here which impact energy use. Enabling the use of lower frequency spectrum for mobiles will reduce energy use and we support this policy, together with the tightening of TV receiver specification to avoid interference. However further energy savings can be made if mobile networks are shared. This will not reduce capacity (indeed it is more likely to be increased) and competition can be maintained in both network procurement and services.

We published a report on network sharing earlier this year -

http://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/reports/Better_Together.pdf

In recent weeks, several companies have supported the idea of a single shared network for 800MHz.

Although it will be a challenge for regulators, consideration also needs to be given to the largest proportion of energy used by services in these bands, namely in the television receivers, especially with their increasing size, and growth in channel numbers.

With firm targets for carbon reduction it is vital that the EC and member states are coherent in regulatory policy across all sectors.

==