VARIATION NUMBER 4 DATED 30 APRIL 2008


WHEREAS

A. Ofcom is varying the Licence in order to impose new obligations on Licensees to make them directly responsible under the Licence for all methods of communication with the public where the mechanism of communication features in programmes (including but not exclusively Participation TV) and requiring them to set up a system of third-party verification where premium rate services are used for competitions or voting schemes publicised in programmes included in the licensed service;

B. Ofcom is varying the Licence accordingly, and, in accordance with section 3(4) of the Broadcasting Act 1990, the Licensee has been given a reasonable opportunity to make representations on the proposed variation.

NOW THEREFORE the Licence shall be varied in the following manner:

1. By inserting in Condition 14(A) into the schedule of the licence:

14(A)

(1) The Licensee shall be responsible for all arrangements for the management of communication, including telephony, between members of the public and the Licensee or the Licensee’s contractors or agents (together here described as “the Licensee”) where such communication is publicised in programmes. ‘Communication’ includes, but is not limited to, methods of communication in which consideration is passed between a member of the public and the Licensee directly or indirectly and methods of communication intended to allow members of the public to register with the Licensee indications of preference or intended to allow entry to any competition, game or scheme operated by the Licensee.

(2)(a) Arrangements for the management of methods of communication publicised in programmes and intended to allow communication between members of the public and the Licensee must ensure, in particular, that:
(i) reasonable skill and care is exercised by the Licensee in the selection of the means of communication and in the handling of communications received;

(ii) voting, competitions, games or similar schemes are conducted in such ways as to provide fair and consistent treatment of all eligible votes and entries; and

(iii) publicity in programmes for voting, competitions, games or similar schemes is not materially misleading.

(b) In addition to the requirements in sub-paragraph 2(a), the Licensee shall ensure that the provisions of the code approved by Ofcom for regulating the provision of premium rate services, or in the absence of such a code, the terms of any order made by Ofcom for such purposes, are observed in the provision of the Licensed Service.

(3)(a) The Licensee shall implement and maintain appropriate compliance procedures to ensure arrangements for the management of methods of communication publicised in programmes and intended to allow communication between members of the public and the Licensee fulfil all the requirements set out in paragraph 2 above.

(b) Where the Licensee uses a Controlled Premium Rate Service as defined under the PRS Condition in force at the time made under section 120 of the Communications Act 2003 as the method of communication for voting or competitions publicised within programme time, the Licensee shall ensure that its compliance procedures include a system of verification by an appropriate independent third party (‘the third party’), in accordance with the following requirements:

(i) Verification shall include confirmation by the third party that an end-to-end analysis of the technical and administrative systems to be used for the receipt and processing of votes and competition entries from members of the public has been conducted and that such systems fulfil all the requirements set out in paragraph 2 above. All such systems and the analysis of such systems must be fully documented.

(ii) Verification shall include appropriately regular reviews by the third party of individual programmes. Such reviews must track all votes or competition entries through all stages from receipt, and the results of each review must be fully documented.

(iii) The Licensee shall ensure that a Director of the Board (or, where there is no Board, an appropriate equivalent) (‘the designated Director) has specific responsibility for verification.

(iv) The Licensee shall ensure that the third party provides reports regarding analyses of processes (as specified under sub-paragraph 3(b)(i)) and reviews of individual programmes (as specified under sub-paragraph 3(b)(ii)) to the designated Director. If significant irregularities or other problems are discovered, the Licensee shall ensure that these are reported forthwith to Ofcom.
(v) The Licensee shall provide forthwith and in an appropriate form any information requested by Ofcom regarding verification.

(vi) The Licensee shall retain for at least two years all relevant data regarding votes and competition entries from callers by means of Controlled Premium Rate Services and all documentation regarding the verification of its systems (as specified under sub-paragraph 3(b)(i)) and the reviews of individual programmes (as specified under sub-paragraph 3(b)(ii)).

(vii) The Licensee shall publish annually a statement signed by the designated Director confirming that he is satisfied that the Licensee has in place suitable procedures to fulfil the requirements of paragraph 3(b) and confirming the name of the third party engaged by the Licensee to fulfil the requirements of paragraph 3(b).

This variation to the Licence shall come into force upon the execution of this document by Ofcom.

This document shall be construed as if it formed part of the Licence and shall be governed by English Law.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF OFCOM ON 30 APRIL 2008

Claire Lyons
Head of Television Broadcast Licensing