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132

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New Andy,

During the debate on the radio selection services provisions in Part 6 of the Media Bill on Tuesday 12 December, you sought clarification on the extent to which the internet stream provided by a radio station - and in particular, the advertisements contained within that stream - would need to correspond with the broadcast (analogue or digital) version of that service in order to retain the protections put in place for radio under this Part of the Bill.

The Bill provides that "an internet radio service corresponds to a UK radio service if, disregarding advertisements, all of the programmes included in the internet radio service are broadcast on the UK radio service at the same time as they are provided by the internet radio service" (Clause 48, inserting new section 362BG(4)).

This means that a radio station is able to provide different adverts on its online service to those provided on its broadcast (either analogue or digital) service, without losing its ability to take advantage of the protections set out in this Part of the Bill.

I have copied this letter to the other members of the Committee and I will place this letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

bu over

Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP

Minister for Media, Tourism and Creative Industries

