

**Communications Chambers**

**Policy Poetry**

**December 2017**



Astonishingly, there is very little poetry addressing telecoms and media policy. This booklet aims to fill that yawning gap in the market.

## **Winner's curse**

The spectrum's yours  
But you overpaid.  
In due course  
You'll be dismayed.

## **News plurality**

Harmony's normally  
Just what we choose,  
But a clanging cacophony's  
Much better for news.

## **The BBC**

It's state TV,  
but not propaganda.  
The licence fee  
Gets you Holden, Amanda.

## **Fair, reasonable & non-discriminatory**

Life's not fair  
But suppliers must aim.  
So do take care  
To stiff 'em the same.

## **Fibre-to-the-home**

Glass in the streets  
For reasons unclear.  
Copper competes  
And isn't so dear.

## **EPG Prominence**

The guide's top ranks  
Are the place to be.  
To Ofcom our thanks –  
From the PSBs.

## **Subsidy**

Bounty from the public purse  
In pursuit of noble goals.  
But can be tricky to reverse,  
So guard against the begging bowls.

## **Linear TV**

Menu Fixe,  
Not Netflix

## **Regulatory capture**

When the cop  
Is on robbers sweet,  
Who will stop  
Those who cheat?

## **Competition**

Having some foes  
Keeps you on your toes,  
And should be sufficient  
To make you efficient.

## **Externality**

These people pay,  
But those people benefit.  
They're freeloaders,  
But not degenerate

## **Reach**

A measure of who saw your show.  
Did they watch it all?  
We'll never know.

## **Judicial Review**

We heard your thoughts,  
It's not what we wanted.  
We're off to the courts,  
Entirely undaunted.

## **Significant Market Power**

A hulking gorilla  
Can behave like Attila  
Lest we be crushed,  
He must be trussed.

## **Country of Origin principle**

There are plenty of fish in the sea.  
But if you're a regulatee,  
Monogamy's much better  
Than 28 heavy-petters.



## **Universal Service Obligation**

Country mouse lives  
Down a country lane.  
Telephone's expensive  
But BT takes the pain.

## **Interconnect**

It's good to relate,  
Even to those you hate.  
So get the networks connected,  
As you've been directed.

## **Video-on-demand**

Instant gratification  
For your *Narcos* fixation

## **Bundling**

One stop shopping  
Stops ARPU dropping.  
So please take it all  
Lest profits take a fall.

## **Unbundling**

We don't want the album,  
Only the hits.  
Don't give us an amalgam,  
Just the best bits.

## **Light touch regulation**

Light touch is always the aim  
But interest groups constantly claim:  
"Something must be done!"  
And so 'light' becomes 'ten ton'.

## **Overcompensation**

Your goals are admirable  
That's the straw you clutch.  
But Europe's not charitable  
You've been paid too much.

## **Long-run incremental costs**

The still is brimming,  
Its costs long sunk.  
Now competitors skimming  
Can get cheaply drunk.

## **PSB**

TV that's nutritious  
And often delicious.  
But with so much choice  
Can it retain its voice?

## **Theory of harm**

A regulatory mechanism  
That glorifies pessimism.  
For best decisions,  
Have worst-case visions.

## **Structural separation**

Everyone believes  
You're thick as thieves.  
You'll only go straight  
If you disaggregate.

## **Regulatory Submission**

'Submission' might imply  
Due humility,  
But that would belie  
Their usual hostility.

## **Spectrum**

A valuable intangible,  
But sadly not expansible.  
The expense can be damnable,  
Assignment intractable.

## **The watershed**

Please get the kids  
Tucked into their beds,  
So we can show vids  
That would mess with their heads.

## **Interconnect fees**

Have your people call my people,  
And pay me fair whack.  
I'll have my people call your people,  
And pay it all back.

## **Wholesale remedy**

Please share your toys  
With the other boys.  
They'll pay what is due,  
So they can play too.

## **Evidence based regulation**

We know what route  
Would be most expedient.  
If only the truth  
Would be more convenient.

## **Film ratings**

Sex? The Swedes don't mind.  
Violence? Nothing's worse.  
But in Japan, you will find,  
It is exactly vice versa.



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