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Copy to FCC Chief Executives
County Board Secretaries
Board
Leadership Team
Executive Committee

Mr David Collier
Chief Executive
English and Wales Cricket Board
Lord's Cricket Ground
London, NW8 8QZ

Dear Mr Collier

Free-to-Air Listed Events Review

As you are no doubt aware, a review of the Free-to-Air Listed Events regime was commissioned in late 2008 and undertaken by an independent advisory panel chaired by ex-FA Executive Director, David Davies. The review looked at the principle of having a list, the criteria for listing events and the specific events which should be listed. In response to the Davies' proposals, the previous Government launched its own consultation at the end of 2009. This consultation closed on 19 March 2010.

I am writing to inform you of the Coalition Government's decision regarding the Listed Events Review.

This Government begins its consideration of this subject from the perspective of not wishing to increase – and ideally seeking to reduce - the degree of regulation faced by sports bodies and broadcasters while ensuring that viewers continue to have access to the biggest sporting events on free-to-air television, through live coverage or highlights. The Government also considers that in the current economic climate it is concerned not to take action which could adversely impact on sport, particularly at grassroots level.

In making a decision on the best way forward the Government has taken account of a range of major developments that are likely to have a significant effect on sports rights markets and the broadcasting landscape in the near future. Digital Switchover will conclude in 2012 and will result in the widespread availability of a significantly increased number of television channels. It will also release spectrum which could be used for, among other things, yet more digital channels. Other technological advances could significantly alter the way the sports broadcasting environment operates in the UK. Furthermore, there are issues such as the BBC's Strategy Review, which will cover sports rights, and the Ofcom Pay TV Review, the consequences of which still have to work themselves through.

These issues all point to a full review of the current list being deferred until after Digital Switchover has concluded and its consequences are known. **The Government has therefore made the decision to postpone the current review of the list but with a commitment to review the position more**

fully in 2013 - following the completion of Digital Switchover. The current list therefore remains in force. A statement setting out this decision has also been made to Parliament.

Many organisations, including your own, will have responded to the previous Government's consultation. Our intention is to place this material, in a suitably redacted form where confidential or commercially sensitive information has been provided, on the DCMS website at the earliest opportunity. In this regard we shall be taking into account only where such material has been clearly marked as such. If you have any queries about this please contact David Patterson on 0207 211 6141 or via email:- David.Patterson@culture.gsi.gov.uk.

Keith Smith
Deputy Director, Media,
DCMS