

I feel that Sky hold such power in the TV and Films space that they distort the market for consumers. There is an enormous amount of first run content on Sky channels and, whilst these channels have become increasingly available through other services such as Virgin Media it is clear that Sky aspire for everybody in the UK to subscribe to their services.

I am particularly concerned with Sky's dominance in the premium TV sector alluded to in 9.114 of your report. It is my observation that when Sky sign a particular show they negotiate exclusive broadcast rights to the show which prevent other services from offering the show for extensive periods of time. For example, Sky One have recently started to air the second season of the show, 'The Flash' and are broadcasting it the week following broadcast in the USA. At the moment, the only place to legally watch this show in the UK is on Sky One and presumably on any catch up service they offer.

I am not a Sky customer and nor do I subscribe to any pay TV service. I have no intention of doing so but I do increasingly access content via my Apple TV and through services such as Netflix. The second season of 'The Flash' is nowhere to be found for purchase on the UK iTunes Store at the moment and nor can I find it on any legal service in the UK. The show is available on the USA iTunes Store as well as those of Canada, Australia, France and Germany amongst others. I only choose this show as an example because I think Sky apply the same approach to many (if not all) of their shows. They air the full season on their channel and only when the series has finished does it become available for purchase on other services - so, in my example, I expect to be able to buy season 2 of 'The Flash' at some point in 2016 - probably more than 6 months after it started to air and long after citizens in other countries have seen it.

I feel that this is fundamentally unfair. Sky should be compelled to make these series available on other platforms and services - I accept that they should be able to air shows first but it is unreasonable to lock them to their own services until they have finished broadcasting. I should be able to legally purchase season passes for these programmes from services such as iTunes that allow me to access content within a reasonable timeframe from initial broadcast (much as the BBC, ITV and other channels do with their programmes).

Sky (or any other service) should not be able to lock all of this premium content exclusively behind their own services for extended periods of time - particularly when this approach in the UK is so at odds with practice in comparable countries such as the USA, Australia, Canada, France and Germany.