

cc BSB



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

18 February 1988

BSB
Bm6
18/2

Dear David,

SPECIALISED SATELLITE SERVICES

Thank you for your letter of 8 February setting out proposals for the liberalisation of specialised satellite services.

I agree that there is no longer any need to issue separate licences for receive-only wireless telegraphy equipment; when we decided in 1985 to introduce the £10 TVRO licence we all recognised that this was a transitional arrangement.

I welcome your proposals to licence up to six additional operators to run earth stations for the uplinking of satellite-delivered telecommunications services, and I am happy with the terms of the announcement. My particular interest is in connection with BSB, and I am glad that they will have the opportunity to compete on equal terms with other aspiring operators.

A difficulty may arise from BSB's relationship with the IBA, who will operate the uplink for BSB's television services, and who are prevented by legislation from providing services to closed user groups. I hope that a way can be found around this problem, perhaps by granting a licence directly to BSB rather than the IBA; BSB might then arrange to uplink the data services from a separate ground station, or rent the IBA's ground station from them for the relevant parts of the day.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other members of MISC 128 and Sir Robin Butler

Yours,
David

Broadcasting - ABS PR 6

