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BROADCASTING BILL: MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

At present certain sporting events, such as the Cup Final, Wimbledon, Test Matches etc are categorised as Listed Events and can be shown only by BBC and ITV. The Home Secretary is now proposing that the new broadcasters (Cable and Satellite) should also be able to bid to broadcast those events, subject to one restriction, namely that they cannot be shown on a pay-per-view basis. If this were to be allowed then some, if not all, would almost certainly be purchased by Cable or Satellite operators and shown on a very restricted basis.

Comment

In a world of deregulated television it will be difficult to retain artificial restrictions such as Listed Events. The Home Secretary recognises this and is therefore proposing a major step along the path of deregulation.

It is welcome and should be accepted.

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