

Executive Summary

Discussion about Ofcom on the internet covers a range of issues, with a breadth of stakeholders. Whilst comment is dominated by the volume of disparaging comments about Ofcom's decision regarding smoking in Tom & Jerry, other noteworthy posts include MP John Hemmings call on his blog for Ofcom action on the issue of silent calls, as well as pleas for Ofcom intervention with broadband migration problems.

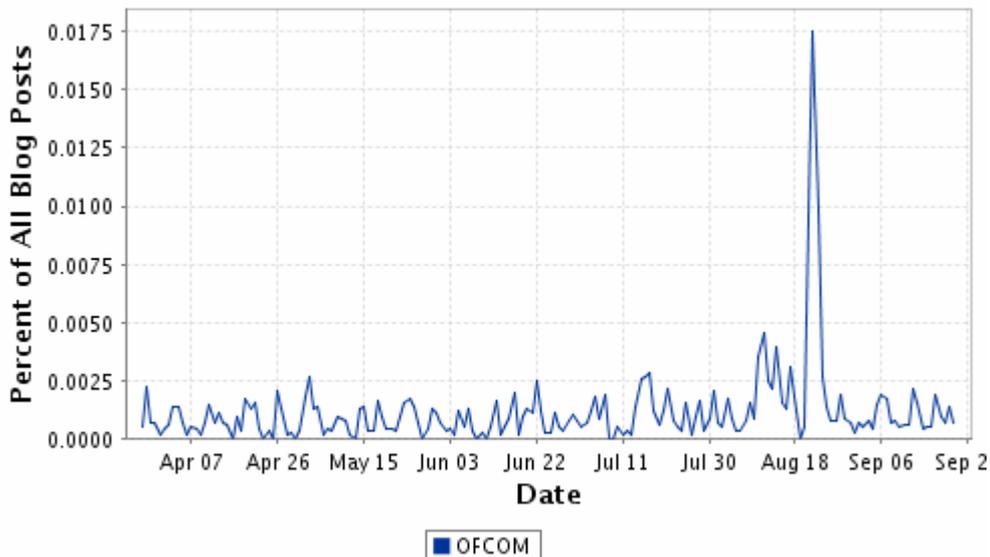
Other issues being discussed on the internet this week include:

- Funding of community radio
- Fining of radio presenters
- New radio stations (Freedom, Brunel)
- On-line radio
- TV programme information
- Graphic charity TV advertising
- Phone-in game show rip-offs
- Junk food advertising
- Call for Ofcom intervention on viewing figures
- Euronet investigation
- 4G Auction
- BBC complaints
- Interruptions to amateur radio
- Silent calls (An MPs blog)
- Carphone Warehouse
- Regulation of VOIP

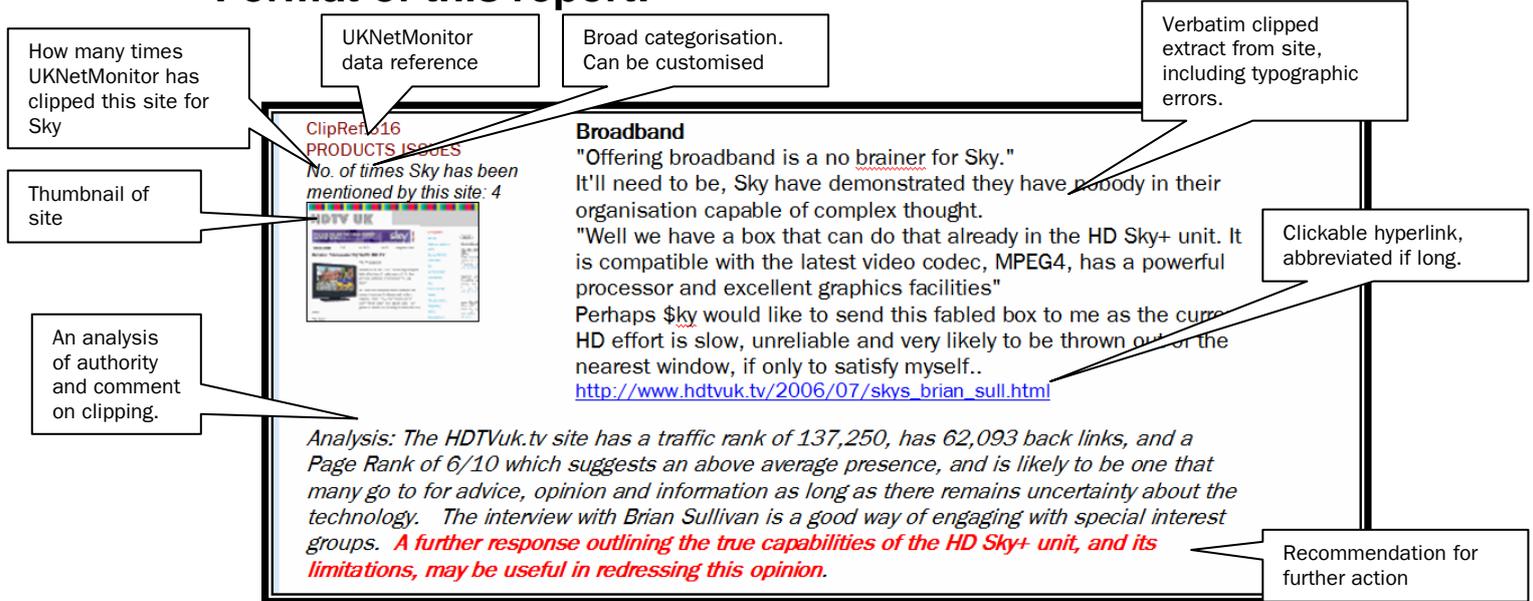
Mentions of Ofcom in Weblogs

The spike in mentions of Ofcom is almost entirely down to comments about Tom & Jerry.

Generated by BlogPulse Copyright 2006 Nielsen BuzzMetrics.



Format of this report:



Glossary

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Blog | Short for Web Log. An online diary/journal |
| Wiki | A web page of site that can be freely edited by anyone. |
| URL | Uniform Resource Location, effectively the address of a website |
| Backlink | Also known as an inbound link. The number of other websites linking to the one you are looking at - a measure of authority |
| Inbound links | Also known as a back link. The number of other websites linking to the one you are looking at - a measure of authority |
| Domain | The main part of a web address, ie the site itself. |
| News feed | Not necessarily about current affairs, but software that automatically takes information and puts it on your web site/in-box |
| RSS or RSS feeds | Short for "Really Simple Syndication", what goes into a news feed and comes out on your website. |

Traffic rank is based on three months of aggregated historical traffic data from millions of Alexa1 Toolbar users and is a combined measure of page views and users (reach).

Reach measures the number of users. Reach is typically expressed as the percentage of all Internet users who visit a given site. So, for example, if a site like yahoo.com has a reach of 28%, this means that if you took random samples of one million Internet users, you would on average find that 280,000 of them visit yahoo.com. Alexa expresses reach as number of users per million.

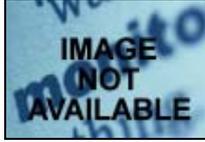
Page views measure the number of pages viewed by Alexa Toolbar users. The page views per user numbers are the average numbers of unique pages viewed per user per day. Page views per million indicates what fraction of all the page views by toolbar users go to a particular site. For example, if yahoo.com has 70,000 page views per million, this means that 7% of all page views go to yahoo.com.

PageRank is a numeric value that represents how important a page is on the web. Google figures that when one page links to another page, it is effectively casting a vote for the other page. The more votes that are cast for a page, the more important the page must be.. Page Rank is score out of 10, 10 being the best.

¹ Alexa is a popular search engine.

BROADCASTING - RADIO

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Community Radio

Anyway unless we can make some sort of charge for community radio (Think about that ofcom) to fund community radio its gonna be a scrape. i can see a penny pot in the studio and the dj screaming "WE'RE GOING UNDER... GIVE US CASH!!! IF WE WERE DOING IT IN THE OLD DAYS OUR SHIP WOULD BE SINKING!!! GIVE GIVE GIVE!!! heres S club 7".

<http://policeend.blogspot.com/>

Context: The personal blog of Jonathan Robinson of Swindon Community Broadcasting.

BROADCASTING - RADIO

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Fining presenters

It's a little more difficult for the BBC though. If Ofcom fines the corporation the only people it really hurts are the licence fee payers. If they're ordered to pay £100k, for example, that just means £100k of licence fee payers money doesn't get spent on programmes and goes straight into the government's coffers. This causes huge problems for both the BBC and Ofcom as the press coverage would be merciless. I think the scapegoat is going to be 'presenter fines' - as alluded to by Andy Parfitt. This way any Ofcom fine can be handed over directly to the presenter, thus not harming budgets or licence-fee payers. It also makes a nice story about the BBC 'getting tough' with errant jocks.

<http://www.mattdeegan.com/2006/06/18/unlucky-moyles/>

Context: The personal blog of Matt Deegan who works for Gcap and is a Director of a number of companies including XFM Manchester Ltd, North East Radio Ltd, NOWdigital (East Midlands) Ltd, Capital Radio One comment: "Presenter fines" are an interesting idea, but of course it isn't always just the presenter that is to blame. The odd slip of the tongue perhaps (such as the "gay ringtone" comment), but anything any less spur-of-the-moment will have involved a whole team. Moyles may be paid £630k, but his producer is certainly not. The producer is going to get the sack, basically, while Moyles is (like a Premiership footballer) going to have his pocket money sweets taken away. There needs to be a better way

BROADCASTING - RADIO

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Freedom FM

Love em or Hate em OFCOM are mad! We've applied for licences but keep getting turned back for all these stupid excuses! Is this just another Government crackpot conspiracy?

<http://blog.myspace.com>

Context: The blog of Freedom FM who say "Help join the fight against the OFCOM by joining our friends list. We are trying out best to bring back radio for the people of Britain! We fight a revolution against the British government and their politics, by demonstrating peacefully and holding nightly discussions of the law, government, Blair and his politics."

BROADCASTING - RADIO

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New Radio Stations

Another week, another small local commercial station makes it to the airwaves. Brunel FM, the Local Radio Company's new Swindon outpost, launched this morning, with a rather predictable choice of first song — yes, U2's Beautiful Day.... why in god's name do Ofcom persist in licensing these tiddly little stations? Shrewsbury, Andover, Northallerton, Perth — the list goes on and on of stations that would have no chance of surviving without a group structure, do very little other than play "a broad mix from the 60s to today" with a few local place names in sweepers and end up chock full of cheap ads for the local taxi firms.... these stations are damaging community radio by simply being there, thanks to the frankly ridiculous rules about advertising and sponsorship.
<http://www.radiolicious.co.uk/>

Context: A ranked blog devoted entirely to radio stations. Linked to the RadioToday.co.uk website.

BROADCASTING - RADIO

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Online radio

Remember Bam Bam, the breakfast show host on London radio station, Kiss FM? Well after being fined a record £175,000 by Ofcom and subsequently quitting the station, he is back with his own web-only station. The Show. It will certainly be interesting to see what the power of the Bam Bam brand is and how the likes of Ofcom react especially as Bam Bam is promising to continue to be controversial and has warned that explicit language will be used.
<http://accidentalobserver.blogspot.com/>

Context: An anonymous former journalist observing the changing consumer marketing landscape triggered by the growing importance of digital content. The "web-only show can be found at <http://www.theshow.com/theshow.php?dev=1>

BROADCASTING - RADIO

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Pirate radio

::: My show went on the air at 8PM in Derbyshire England.
::: Pirate radio. ::: I can hoist teh Jolly Roger now and Avast anytime I like :) shhhhh!!!!2! you'll have yer FCC after ya as well as our OFCOM.

'twas truly a great radio show, blu.
next time it'll be live from liverpool with a stream....
<http://groups.google.co.uk/group/alt.buzzard.rules/>

Context: An eclectic high activity newsgroup.

BROADCASTING - RADIO

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Radio Complaint Update

one of the presenters of my local radio station made what I considered to be an unfair homophobic comment live on his show. I went into all the details again, but basically the presenter of the show – Martin Day, suggested that gay men should use separate toilets from straight men. I took great offence to this, and thought it was just the type of homophobic comments that make it difficult for us gay people to be accepted in life. Anyway – to express my anger I composed a letter of complaint and sent it to both the radio station itself and the UK governing body of radio – ofcom.

<http://www.closetcase.co.uk/viewblog.php?blog=261>

Context: The personal blog of Stuart, who described himself as “a young British closeted gay,” Having heard nothing back from Ofcom this poster has “decided to further my complaint by contacting both ofcom and Essex FM once more to further express my anger.”

BROADCASTING - RADIO

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 5



Rocker Radio

Wonder if this has been raised before? BBC 3 Counties radio do a programme exclusively for gypsies and the ‘travelling community’ called ‘Rocker Radio’ Chris Moyles was on about it today actually taking the p out of it. Does anybody else think this a total misuse of the licence ... I think people ought to complain the BBC and ofcom to get this show taken off air. What are the BBC coming to? What a waste of money!

<http://forum.digitalspy.co.uk/>

Context: The website is a digital media and entertainment news service, based in the UK, covering digital television and programming. Ranked 2,263 in the world.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Beyer spins Ofcom survey to reflect own agenda

Surprised? Ofcom recently published the results of “An investigation of current attitudes and behaviours towards programme information“. ... John Beyer of Mediawatch-UK, however, does not want information. He wants censorship. Ofcom’s approach is sensible. Give adults enough information to allow them to decide what they want to watch. Beyer, whose main concern is to protect old ladies from accidentally viewing violence and bad language, does not believe you are capable of making such decisions for yourself.

<http://www.mediawatchwatch.org.uk/?p=564>

Context: MediaWatchWatch was set up in January 2005 in reaction to the religious campaign against the BBC’s broadcasting of Jerry Springer: the Opera. They claim to “keep an eye on those groups and individuals who, in order to protect their beliefs from offence, seek to limit freedom of expression. And we make fun of them” Not to be confused with “Mediawatch-UK, formerly the National Viewers and Listeners Association”.

BROADCASTING - TV

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Channel 4 News; 24.08,2006, 19.00pm

I received this letter this morning.

Dear Mr Young

Channel 4 News; 24.08,2006, 19.00pm

Thank you for contacting us, we are sorry this programme caused you concern.

[reproduces letter from Ofcom]

This reply is actually at odds with their Broadcasting Code. Since that code states, "In particular, the right to freedom of expression, as expressed in Article 10 of the Convention, encompasses the audience's right to receive creative material, information and ideas without interference but subject to restrictions proscribed by law and necessary in a democratic society."

<http://www.blogcharm.com/eeore/46541/>

Context: The personal blog of Jeremy Young.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Channel 5's Sitcom on Prostitution

Sign the petition. Channel 5 are planning to screen a new comedy, set in a brothel. According to a national press article the show, 'Respectable', features women who sell sex to pay for shoe collections and 'beautiful things'. Click here for more information about the sitcom. Eaves Housing have already written a letter of complaint and Women's Aid intend to write to Channel 5 too. Eaves have organised a petition and are collecting signatures to show that this is not the kind of viewing audiences want.".....

.....It may also be useful to copy any letters of complaint you sent to five to Ofcom.

<http://mindthegapcardiff.blogspot.com/2006/08/petition-and-disclaimer.html>

Context: This is a feminist blog created by women in Cardiff, and refers to a widely circulated email.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Graphic charity ads on childrens channels?

I have complained to ofcom, (well they banned tom and jerry episodes because they were smoking), but when i complained about the nspcc ads and oxfam ads on skys childrens channels they say that its ok unless it upsets many people. (Mainly boomerang and cartoon network)

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/>

Context: A site where people can post questions for others to answer. This posting has generated many responses including:

"i agree too, i have 3 kids and 1 in particular is extremely sensitive and worries about so many things he shouldnt at his age, and these ads upset him everytime and he calls on me to do something,

apart from all that he suffers from nightmares anyway and this increases when he sees such ads. im with you on this one"

"Totally agree with you there! It's horrible that these ads come on kids' TV. If there's a petition to be signed, my name'll be on it."

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



ITV rip off show the MINT should be closed down

If you have been drawn into this illegal crime trap that ITV have been forcing upon you , I plead with you all to make a complaint by phoning your phone company and complaining about your bill, the phone regulator ofcom , (www.ofcom.org.uk) and ICSTIS (www.icstis.org.uk)
<http://groups.google.co.uk/group/uk.legal/>

Context: A high activity newsgroup about legal matters, largely used by non-lawyers seeking advice. A long posting discussing play.itv.com - how your chances of winning and the selection process are allegedly corrupt.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Stephen Carter

Here is my idea. To run ITV you need to know something about television. It's crazy, I know. Yesterday, it was McCann Erickson's Rupert Howell who emerged as a possible candidate to run ITV. ... I think personally that it needs someone who knows about television, someone with a track record of doing the job. Is Ofcom's Stephen Carter that man?
<http://gordonsrepublic.blogspot.com/>

Context: "It's an advertising, marketing, media and PR work thing from the editor of Brand Republic." Gordon MacMillan , with a strong page rank and nearly 450 pages linking in - likely to be read by many in the trade.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Junk Food Advertising

In the wake of the appointment of Caroline Flint as the fit Fitness Minister it has been announced that there will be 13 million obese people, or Porkus Maximus in latin, by 2010. Given this fact, it is refreshing that OfCom has remained resolutely against banning junk food adverts.
<http://barrysbeef.blogspot.com/2006/08/i-spot-discrepancy.html>

Context: A personal blog.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Naruto Unleashed: Season One #1

The show whose fans are so dedicated they even have their own adjective - which I'm not going to repeat here - arrives on UK shores, amid a wave of hype and annoyance at how many edits have been made to the TV version. Ah, the joys of having to stick to the Ofcom Programme Code. No such problems for the DVD release, of course, which revels in its uncut status.
<http://www.maehara.co.uk/>

Context: anime news and reviews

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Political Ads

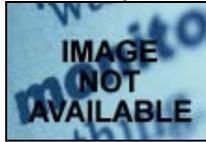
We also have speech codes, produced by the regulator Ofcom, that require 'impartiality' and no 'undue prominence of views and opinions' from broadcasters. Note that this is ridiculous since in Britain, the media are without question left-wing to varying degrees. In practice, 'impartiality' means adhering to the dominant centre-left line of the BBC. This makes things like partisan talk radio a punishable offence. No Howard Stern or Hugh Hewitt over here. Both illegal. Certainly no FOX.

<http://www.nationofshopkeepers.org.uk/>

Context: A UK right wing blogger. Part of a debate about the merits of the US McCain-Feingold legislation.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Political correctness run amok

Ofcom rules do not apply to depictions of assaults with frying pans, stabbings, maulings with an egg slicer or the roasting of chirpy rodents. hmmm... unless there's strong editorial justification. How about 'They're classics' Good enough for me. Bunch of stupid motherf**ers

<http://www.backseatblogger.com/>

Context: A high number of inbound links (16,232) give this Canadian blogger an above average presence for a personal blog. One comment: You are witnessing the British Nation circling the toilet bowl of time for the final few times before the Big Flush completes itself.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 5



Multi-plex channels

I was wondering how come ofcom cannot create more multi-plex's
<http://forum.digitalspy.co.uk/board/showthread.php?referrerid=109801&t=458523>

Context: The website is a digital media and entertainment news service, based in the UK, covering digital television and programming. Ranked 2,263 in the world. cant the government see quiz/shopping channels are rubbish, we dont want them, we want things like National Geographic

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Smoking in Tom & Jerry

But now a complaint to the British media regulator has led to the removal of scenes in the cartoon "Tom and Jerry" that glorify smoking ,,, So attacking each other with axes and machetes won't encourage imitation, but smoking a cigarette will.

http://larryborsato.com/blog/2006/08/the_cigarette_is_mightier_than.html

Context: A personal blog. The issue is mentioned in more than 100 blogs now for example::

<http://brozak.freehostia.com/?p=30>

<http://www.thesacredcircle.org/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=12>

<http://friedbrains.com/?p=38>

http://crisotunity.blogspot.com/2006/09/censorsht_02.html

<http://slatorsbrain.blogspot.com/2006/08/tom-jerry-in-need-of-nicobrevin.html>

<http://blog.myspace.com>

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Smoking in Tom & Jerry

ICan this be serious? They propose reworking “what are indisputably works of art, often nearly half a century old, made for all age-groups, shown in every cinema, to satisfy a complaint from just one viewer. Quite apart from the cost and expertise required in defacing 25 frames per second. It is wrong. Think about it for a moment. Where does it stop? We have already had a movement (successful I believe) to extinguish Isambard Kingdom Brunel’s cigar. What about Popeye’s pipe ...

<http://www.airsupremacy.co.uk/blog/?p=34>

Context: John Stonborough FCIPR was an award-winning investigative BBC Radio and television journalist. He is now the MD of Stonborough Media Group, comprising John Stonborough & Co, a media relations consultancy and Air Supremacy Ltd, a media training company, with clients from A - Y (Asda-Walmart to Yahoo).

Until late 2004 he was the Media Adviser to the Speaker and House of Commons Commission (UK Parliament); He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and an Associate of Project Associates, the respected strategic communications consultancy Also posted at <http://www.2clicks.com/stonborough/general/a-real-lack-ofcom-mon-sense>.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Smoking in Tom & Jerry

It seems British media regulator Ofcom (which honestly sounds more like the name of some lame Internet start-up) has decided to censor certain episodes of the 1960s cartoon after a viewer complained about smoking in two episodes. (No word yet on whether Scooby Snacks will be affected by Weight Watchers censors.) ... I mean, smoking is terrible and all, but I sort of have a feeling I’d rather come home one day from work and catch my son lighting up a cigarette than see him sawing his little sister in half. Maybe that’s just me. ... We’ve evolved, and our standards of conduct have evolved too. Tom and Jerry is no longer a show for the kindergarten set, and parents who haven’t figured that out have nobody to blame but themselves for not paying close enough attention.

http://www.artknowledgenews.com/Tom_and_Jerry_Cartoons.html

Context: This online news magazine is published free to subscribers worldwide and is sponsored by the Art Appreciation Foundation.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Smoking in Tom & Jerry

Oh brother, I have heard some pretty silly censorship tales in my time, but this one is a real doozy. Last week, U.K. telecom and media regulator Ofcom announced that, in the wake of an investigation prompted by the anonymous viewer’s complaint, it had pressured the children’s cable TV channel Boomerang to edit out scenes in two “Tom & Jerry” cartoons that were deemed to glamorize or condone smoking. “We note that, in ‘Tom and Jerry’, smoking usually appears in a stylised manner and is frequently not condoned,” reported Ofcom.

http://blog.pff.org/archives/2006/08/uk_censors_tom.html

Context: The Progress & Freedom Foundation is a market-oriented think tank that studies the digital revolution and its implications for public policy.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Smoking in Tom and Jerry

Ofcom is to be commended for its stance on smoking in Tom and Jerry. Having dealt with this scourge of the cartoon world, I urge it to turn its attention to an even greater evil: the Acme Corporation. For too long, this irresponsible company has supplied gullible cartoon animals with rocket-propelled sleds, giant fireworks and what can only be described as Heath Robinson contraptions of doom. No after-sales support or training is evident and the purchase of such items invariably leads to Wile E. Coyote exploding in midair or falling several miles over a cliff.

I can think of no better use of public funds.

<http://www.ecademy.com/node.php?id=72874&seen=1>

Context: With Ecademy's services you will learn to operate, network, and develop your E-business. Google rank 7/10. This poster runs an events management company.

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Smoking on Tom & Jerry

There is an organization out there that has a pole further up its rear end than our FCC. It's called Ofcom, which is the British version of the FCC. Their beef this time is Tom and Jerry. A complain was sent in about two Tom and Jerry cartoons where there was smoking. So what happened? They forced the Boomerang Network (a spinoff of Cartoon Network...yay Pee Wee!!!) to censor the scenes where smoking was involved. (See story here)

<http://www.xanga.com/item.aspx?user=boneman2000&tab=weblogs&uid=522235430>

Context: Xanga is on of the top web portals. It has recently been investigated in the US under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA),

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 5



Ofcom's reputation

Anyways i wanted to complain but i just think ofcom dont care and probably are getting a cut from these quiz channels just like ofwat were probably taking money from the large water companies as we were treated with a £1000 fine for hose pipe and they were let of with a slap on the wrist. So do you think ofcom cares or takes notice of what we want?

<http://forum.digitalspy.co.uk/>

Context: The website is a digital media and entertainment news service, based in the UK, covering digital television and programming. Ranked 2,263 in the world. Some replies:

I don't think OfCom give a monkeys tuppence about the UK public, but this link may help you complain about 'Gaming Channels'

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/complain/>

The simple answer is NO.

Probably something to do with powerful media lobbies and pressure from 'on high'.

Isn't there a saying about 'He who pays the piper, calls the tunes' MAYBE not directly, I don't know and don't really care how OFCOM pays for fancy central London offices, but in this day and age someone will talk to someone else and remind a third person who owes favours to

someone else. Some might call it a conspiracy, but it doesn't need to be. it is just a fact of life big business gets more than the little man.

And

As we saw recently, Ofcoms chair is moving to ITV. Says it all really. If you want to complain, Ofcom will NEVER find in your favour even if every TV viewer in the country complained. You're better off looking up the Culture Media and Sport Committee on the Parliament website and emailing them as to why ofcom isn't up to te job, and why it needs replacing with an organisation that has teeth.

At the moment, if ITV wants to do something, Ofcom rolls over and says OK, even if it's part of the agreement to run the service in the first place (kids TV, Religious, Current affairs, etc).

BROADCASTING - TV

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Viewing Figures - call for Ofcom intervention

On the basis that "ITV" means Carlton and Granada, I can't be the only one who finds that deeply satisfying. When is OfCom going to step in with a modern version of the Peacock Committee recommendations?

<http://groups.google.co.uk/group/uk.media.tv.misc/>

Context: A high activity newsgroup dedicated to discussion of all aspects of TV in the UK that seems to attract a lot of posters from overseas. Has around 10,000 posts a month.

CORPORATE ISSUES

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Make way Ofcom, Eurocrats coming through

So in this landscape, just what good is a body like Ofcom? What powers does it have any more over BT or other UK licensees? None that really matter, is the truth. If enterprises are going to get the communications industry they deserve then a regulator that has real powers for change is probably necessary. Sorry Colonel. Hope you like straight bananas and driving on the right.

<http://www.itpro.co.uk/blogs/329/make-way-ofcom-eurocrats-coming-through.shtml>

Context: Online UK Publication of business related technology news & reviews. Find technology news, security product reviews, Blogging, computer reviews, blog videos, Technology articles, IT News, security news and firewalls. IT PRO is an absolute guide for IT professionals.

CORPORATE ISSUES

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Ofcom investigate Euro1Net

A week after BT cut off over 5,000 of 'cut price ISP' Euro1Net customers it seems that further investigation into the whole affair is afoot. Ofcom, the industry watchdog, has announced that it will look at whether the ISP has failed to comply with it's code for dealing with customer complaints. While this is obviously good news, Ofcom has not the reputation for being either a speedy or forceful in trying to resolve problems.

<http://www.uk-bug.net/Article1308.html>

Context: The forum of the Broadband Users Group has a respectable PageRank of 4/10. and a traffic rank of 390,254. With an estimated 9,000 links, this is a forum of some influence.

CORPORATE ISSUES

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



The Real BBC Complaints process

Can I complain to an outside body?

Yes. You can complain to OFCOM, whose members are chosen by the Labour government whose rear end our tongues are perpetually embedded in.

<http://bbceye.blogspot.com/2006/09/real-bbc-complaints-process.html>

Context: Part of the network of political bloggers. A blog challenging the TV licence fee, and aiming to hold the BBC to account. A long Q & A posting about the BBC complaints process.

CORPORATE ISSUES

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Through a curtain, darkly

I gave a presentation in the Boardroom at OFCOM this morning. It's a lovely room on the 11th floor with glass walls and a wonderful view of London. It also has some clever curtains, which let in the light but probably render it opaque to the outside world. After we'd finished I experimented with some shots through the curtain. This is a shot of the view looking towards Tower Bridge. It's come out looking rather like a medieval etching. Not a great success, but worth trying.

<http://memex.naughtons.org/archives/2006/09/13/3228>

Context: The blog of Guardian columnist John Naughton. Blog includes photo's looking out of Ofcom's Riverside windows.

MISC ISSUES

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Ofcom may be a course of action

..... since they have a procedure to log complaints about all sorts of service problems from communications providers.

Try a Google to ofcom website - if you have the patience to wait for this ISP to take you there

<http://www.tiscali.co.uk/forums/showthread.php?t=111349&referrerid=18669>

Context: Tiscali's customer forum. There have been a rising number of complaints about Tiscali's broadband service. One reply: I've already complained to them around a week ago, the more people complain... the likely it is that an investigation is going to start.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS & SPECTRUM

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



4G Auction

With an annual salary north of £300k, Ed Richards is no stranger to the idea that where money's concerned, more is more. But Ofcom's chief operating officer may be letting the opportunity to turn a quick buck blind him from repeating the fiasco of 3G. On Thursday, Richards revealed that Ofcom is considering auctioning off radio spectrum that could be used for fourth-generation mobile services. The regulator believes that as spectrum is a finite resource, the best way of distributing it is for telecoms firms to whip out their wallets and out-bid each other into submission.

<http://www.netstumbler.com/2006/09/07/ofcom-loses-the-4g-signal/>

Context: The website of netstumbler wifi software producer

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS & SPECTRUM

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 4



A nice little earner for Ofcom?

I found the item below, in the on-line edition of a sailing-club magazine, in an article about the changes to 'Ship Radio Licences' [refers to on-the-spot inspections and fines in marinas].

Quite right... Ofcom don't want people cluttering up the court system, when it can just 'mug' them for a handful of wedge. American Express? That'll do nicely...

Why didn't we spot this opening in the market, Me Lord?

<http://groups.google.co.uk/group/uk.radio.amateur>

Context: A high activity newsgroup to discuss Amateur radio and related matters

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS & SPECTRUM

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Interruptions to transmission

That said, those gimps who play music need their nadgers kicking.

That is one of the downfalls that CB had. That and bucket mouthed deviants. Why Ofcom don't go out and fine these idiots god only knows. The secret services used to track down enemy transmissions to a very close radius in very short times. Why they can't pinpoint troublemakers in minutes and fine these imbeciles with the superior equipment available to them today surprises me.

<http://groups.google.co.uk/group/uk.radio.amateur/>

Context: A high activity newsgroup to discuss Amateur radio and related matters

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS & SPECTRUM

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Is monitoring PMR446 Legal?

What I read about listening to PMR446 on a scanner fits in with that. PMR446 channels are spaced at 12.5 Khz with a 6.25 Khz offset so they are between commercial two-way radio channels. If you listen with a scanner there is a good chance of hearing traffic on the commercial channels which Ofcom don't want you to do.

<http://groups.google.co.uk/group/uk.radio.amateur>

Context: A high activity newsgroup to discuss Amateur radio and related matters

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS & SPECTRUM

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Resiting of "gl"

Only it's a bad day when a licensed individual feels it necessary to jam a repeater constantly over several months. But it's a great day when Ofcom does it's job and catches the licensed individual.

Then its disgraceful that after using up loads of resources and hours of man power that nothing becomes of it.

<http://groups.google.co.uk/group/uk.radio.amateur/>

Context: A high activity news group to discuss Amateur radio and related matters

TELECOMS

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Broadband migrations Warehouse

"As you have seen a MAC Key will do you no good until ofcom sort this mess about migrations out, so your only option once the markers are removed is to sign-up with an new ISP and you will probably have to pay an activation fee as well". The consensus is that the problems rest entirely with BT.

<http://www.skyuser.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?t=1856>

Context: With now over 1100 registered members, this forum is becoming more significant and is largely devoted to people swapping experience of registering for SkyBroadband.

TELECOMS

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Carphone Warehouse

In response to the FSA's £245,000 fine for Carphone Warehouse for the mis-selling of phone insurance policies, Carphone Warehouse's CEO, Charles Dunstone is reported to have said (repeats BBC News article):

After screwing 56,000 customers who were not even sent their policy summaries (not to mention the countless complaints regarding TalkTalk) it's about time someone cracked this Nut. Here's hoping that Ofcom will do the same.

<http://thelastpost.blogspot.com/2006/09/07/a-tough-nut-to-crack/>

Context: A personal blog.

TELECOMS

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Politics and Change

The issue of Silent Calls is more complex. Ofcom basically have been uninterested in stopping silent calls. They are, however, a substantial nuisance for many people. Gradually the rules have been tightened up, but there is no evidence of them being properly enforced. I have put a question in to Ofcom as to what they are doing and await the response. Ofcom should respond to pressure.

<http://johnhemming.blogspot.com>

Context: The blog of John Hemming, Liberal Democrat MP for Yardley

TELECOMS

No. of times Ofcom has been mentioned by this site: 1



Skype Hits The Pleasure And Pain Of The Mainstream

VOIP service providers are predictably angry over OFCOM's meddlesome intervention and have asked why such a code of practice is needed. OFCOM will try and tread a fine line between existing heavily regulated voice service providers and the new upstarts who hitch a cheap ride on the existing infrastructure.

<http://www.digital-lifestyles.info/>

Context: The site aims to report on the effect technology is having on the creation, distribution and consumption of media. It has an average presence on the web.
