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cc: Siobhan Kenny, Chief Executive, Radiocentre Ltd

Sent by e-mail

Dear Chris,

Radio 1 Dance stream – materiality assessment

On 31 July 2020, we received a materiality assessment from the BBC, which sets out its proposal to launch the ‘Radio 1 Dance stream’, whereby it will bring together existing BBC dance genre content on BBC Sounds.

I am writing to let you know that, having reviewed the materiality assessment and the additional information you have provided, we do not require the BBC to conduct a Public Interest Test (‘PIT’) in relation to the proposal. This is because we consider the impact of the Radio 1 Dance stream on the market is likely to be small, particularly given it will be online only and will contain no new or exclusive content.

Notwithstanding this, we are mindful that there have been a number of incremental changes to Sounds, and that stakeholders in the commercial radio sector have serious ongoing concerns about its development. It is clear that Sounds is a vital part of the BBC’s audio proposition, as highlighted in BBC’s annual report for 2019/20 and in a speech by the Director General on 3 September, which indicate there are likely to be further changes to Sounds.

We therefore think that it is now the right time to consider the market position of BBC Sounds and so intend, through a public process, to seek evidence from stakeholders in relation to their concerns. As part of this process, we will also be keen to better understand the BBC’s strategy for Sounds. We intend this to be a focused exercise, which we expect to complete by the end of 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Siobhan Walsh