

This is our summary of some of the key legal developments across a range of sectors for the week of 8 March 2010. It is intended for reference purposes only and does not constitute definitive advice. Links to the original source materials are included where there are no restrictions in terms of access. References may also be made to sources that require separate registration or subscription. A link to a source does not necessarily imply endorsement of the source or the material provided through the link.

For further information on any of the matters discussed in the summary please contact our Professional Support Lawyer, [Sarah Kirkness](#). If you have any comments, queries or suggestions please contact us at [comments](#). All suggestions and comments are most welcome. If you do not wish to receive this summary you can contact us at [unsubscribe](#).

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General

Digital Economy Bill - Report's Status Before House of Lords

The Digital Economy Bill continues its progress through the House of Lords - the Lords have been debating amendments to clauses on the digital switchover, local radio multiplex services frequency and licensed areas, payments for licences, video games classifications and designated authorities for classifications, the extension and regulation of licensing of copyright and performers' rights and the licensing of copyright and performers' property rights. The Bill is scheduled for its Third Reading on 15 March, before proceeding to the House of Commons.

Government Consults on Pilot Programme Offering Civil Sanctions in Consumer Law Cases

The BIS has begun consulting on a pilot operation in which ten Local Authority Trading Standards areas would offer consumers civil sanctions as an alternative to criminal prosecutions in certain consumer law cases. This follows the Government's Consumer White Paper "A Better Deal for Consumers: Delivering Real Help Now and Change for the Future" in which proposals for working with the Local Better Regulation Office to test new powers as provided in the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, and apply them to areas of consumer law enforcement were announced. One of the features of the Act is to provide a framework for regulators (enforcers) to be granted access to a range of civil sanctions by the Secretary of State as an alternative to criminal prosecution. The BIS noted that for many breaches of consumer law, the main sanction available is the criminal prosecution of the trader by the enforcing authority and that while consumers do have the right to pursue claims for compensation through the civil courts, this course of action is likely to prove a major hurdle for many consumers, and the cost of doing so is disproportionate in some cases in relation to the losses incurred. The consultation outlines how the BIS is proposing to conduct the pilot programme, which areas of consumer law are to be covered and the enforcing authorities who will participate. The Government has said that its preferred option is to use the pilot programme to provide consumers with greater access to compensation. See <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file54671.pdf> for details.

European Parliament's Resolution on Current State of ACTA Negotiations

Concerns about the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) continue - the European Parliament has defied the EU Executive and voted against agreement between the EU, the US and other major powers on combating online piracy and threatening to take legal action at the European Court of Justice. An overwhelming majority of MEPs (663 in favour and 13 against) voted on a resolution on the transparency and current state of play of the ACTA negotiations. The resolution criticised ACTA, arguing that it flouted agreed EU laws on piracy online and "[s]tresses that, unless Parliament is immediately and fully informed at all stages of the negotiations, it reserves its right to take suitable action, including bringing a case before the Court of Justice in order to safeguard its prerogatives". It also called on the Commission to "conduct an impact assessment of the implementation of ACTA with regard to fundamental rights and data protection, ongoing EU efforts to harmonise IPR enforcement measures, and e-commerce, prior to any EU agreement on a consolidated ACTA treaty text, and to consult with Parliament in a

timely manner about the results of the assessment". See <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2010-0058&language=EN&ring=P7-RC-2010-0154> for the Resolution. The consent of the European Parliament is necessary for the European Commission to conclude the treaty on behalf of the EU. As mentioned previously, the next round of the ACTA negotiations will be taking place in mid April.

Article 29 Working Party Opinion on "Controller" and "Processor"

The Article 29 Working Party has published an Opinion on the concepts of "controller" and "processor" in the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC. The Working Party said it "recognises the difficulties in applying the definitions of the Directive in a complex environment, where many scenarios can be foreseen involving controllers and processors, alone or jointly, with different degrees of autonomy and responsibility". It noted that "the concept of data controller and its interaction with the concept of data processor play a crucial role in the application of Directive 95/46/EC, since they determine who shall be responsible for compliance with data protection rules, and how data subjects can exercise their rights in practice. The concept of data controller is also essential for the determination of the applicable national law and the effective exercise of the supervisory tasks conferred on Data Protection Authorities". It said it was "therefore of paramount importance that the precise meaning of these concepts and the criteria for their correct use are sufficiently clear and shared by all those in the Member States". The Working Party said it hoped that the explanations given in the Opinion, which are illustrated with specific examples taken from the daily experience of data protection authorities, will "contribute to effective guidance on the way to interpret these core definitions of the Directive". See http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/docs/wpdocs/2010/wp169_en.pdf for the Opinion.

Betting & Gaming

Internet Gaming Study Committee to Consider Business Need for Standardised Internet Gaming Protocol

The Gaming Standards Association (GSA) has announced the establishment of an Internet Gaming Study Committee. The Committee, which is comprised of GSA members from around the world, will determine if there is a business need for the creation of a standardised internet gaming protocol. The Committee will consider issues such as the operator and supplier environment and the technology and regulatory landscape to understand how common protocols might benefit all concerned. The GSA said the Committee is expected to report on its findings as early as the summer. (*GSA Press Release, 2 March 2010*).

New Legislation - First-tier Tribunal (Gambling) Fees (Amendment) Order

The First-tier Tribunal (Gambling) Fees (Amendment) Order 2010, SI 2010/633 comes into force on 6 April 2010. The Order amends The First-tier Tribunal (Gambling) Fees Order 2010, SI 2010/42, which sets the fees for bringing an appeal to the First-tier Tribunal under section 141 or 337(1) of the Gambling Act 2005. The Order increases the fees to be paid for bringing an appeal before the Tribunal by 7.6%. See http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/pdf/uksi_20100633_en.pdf for details.

Estonia to Stop ISPs Providing Access to Online Gambling Sites

Internet Service Providers in Estonia are reported to have begun to implement measures to block citizens' access to illegal online gambling sites, following the release of the first blacklist by the Estonia's Tax and Customs Administration - the legislation to introduce the restriction was introduced in 2008 however the restrictions are only now being enforced. The amended Estonian Gambling Act now requires servers for "legal" remote gambling to be physically located in Estonia. According to reports, the preliminary list contains 175 international sites, including "some of the best known brands in the market". Only one company is licensed and regulated to offer online casino and poker gaming services under the jurisdiction of Estonia - the Olympic Casinos Group, which has recently released its own online system.

Broadcasting

Broadcast Bulletin - Latest Issue

The latest edition of Ofcom's Broadcast Bulletin has been published with details of adjudications of breaches of Rules 1.14 (the most offensive language should not be broadcast pre-watershed), 1.24 ("adult" material be restricted to overnight services with mandatory restricted access), 1.25 (BBFC R18-rated films or their equivalent must not be broadcast), 2.1 (generally accepted standards), 2.3 (material which may cause offence must be justified by context), 10.2 (advertising and programming elements must be separate), 10.3 (products and services must not be promoted in programmes) and 10.4 (no undue prominence may be given in any programme to a

product or service) of the Broadcasting Code. Ofcom also recorded breaches of Licence Condition 11 (retention and production of recordings) and a breach of Licence Conditions 2(1) and 2(4) in Part 2 of the Schedule to the London commercial radio licence AL175 by Club Asia (London) Ltd. The Bulletin also contained a Notice of the sanctions imposed on Springdoo Media Limited, which owns and operates the television service Friendly TV and User Generated Broadcasting Limited, which owns and operates the television service Bedroom TV for "seriously and repeatedly" breaching the Ofcom Broadcasting Code and for failing to comply with Condition 11 of their Television Licensable Content Service Licence (note that Springdoo Media Limited and User Generated Broadcasting Limited are sister companies under common ownership and control and all editorial compliance decisions regarding the companies were taken by a centralised compliance team - Bedroom TV ceased broadcasting in November 2009 and Friendly TV ceased broadcasting in January 2010). Ofcom also published a Notice of Direction to Kashmir Broadcasting Corporation Limited, which holds a broadcasting licence for the television service DBN requiring it to provide Ofcom with specified information in order to determine whether KBC is providing the DBN service in accordance with section 362(2) of the Communications Act 2003 and is complying with its obligations as a licensee. See http://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv/obb/prog_cb/obb153/Issue153.pdf for details.

New Legislation - Television Licence Fees Increase

An order has been laid in the House of Commons, which will increase the cost of a colour television licence fee to from £142.50 to £145.50 and the cost of a black and white licence from £48 to £49 from 1 April 2010. This increase is in line with the current six-year BBC funding settlement, which began in April 2007 - for the first two years of the settlement the increase was set at 3% and at 2% for years three, four and five. Any increase (of up to 2%) in year six will be set "nearer the time". (*DCMS News Release, 9 March 2010*).

Corporate

Amended Guidance on Procedures for Restoration to Register After Striking Off

Companies House has published amended guidance on the availability of the administrative restoration procedure for companies and LLPs struck off under the Companies Act 1985 - GP4 now states that companies struck off under section 652 of the Companies Act 1985 are eligible for administrative restoration to the register, in addition to those struck off under sections 1000 and 1001 of the Companies Act 2006 and similar amendments have been made to GPLL3 in relation to LLPs. Earlier versions of the guidance stated only that companies struck off under the 2006 Act were eligible. See <http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/about/pdf/gp4.pdf> and <http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/about/pdf/gpll3.pdf> for details.

European Parliament's Resolution Adopting Commission Proposal to Amend Fourth Company Law Directive

The European Parliament has passed a legislative resolution adopting, with amendments, the European Commission's proposal for a Directive to amend the Fourth Company Law Directive 78/660/EEC in relation to the annual accounts of micro entities. The proposed directive is intended to allow Member States to ease the administrative burden of financial reporting for micro entities. Micro entities are defined as companies which, on their balance sheet dates, do not exceed the limits of two of the three following criteria - a balance sheet total of €500,000; a net turnover of €1,000,000; and an average number of employees during the financial year of ten. See http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/accounting/docs/news/legal_proposal_en.pdf for the Commission's Proposal.

Article - Clarity from New Corporate Manslaughter Sentencing Guidelines?

The latest New Law Journal looks at the sentencing guidelines for organisations convicted under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 and health and safety offences resulting in death, published by the Sentencing Guidelines Council, which took effect from 15 February 2010 and considers whether these guidelines have provided any clarity. The article states that "The new guidelines appear to be a significant development in the enforcement of health and safety obligations" but also makes the point that "the guidelines do not quantify what weight the various factors should be given" and that, as a consequence, the courts "retain a very large area of discretion over the level of fine they impose". (*"Health & Safety: Uncharted Territory" (2010) 160 NLJ 340 - the article is available via LexisNexis; note also that the first trial of a company and its director to have been charged under the new Act has been adjourned on medical grounds - commentators have already questioned however whether this case will give much guidance on the application of the law as the company in question has only a small annual turnover and there exists discretion for the court to consider the financial means of the company and the impact of a fine on the employment of innocent employees. Further, the guidelines, which require a company to publicise their convictions came into effect after the charges had been brought and so do not apply in this case*).

Film & TV

Article - Reviewing the Icebreaker Ruling

The latest Tax Journal looks at the implications from the recent ruling of the First-tier Tribunal in *Icebreaker 1 LLP v HMRC* [2010] UKFTT 6 (TC) (and see <http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKFTT/TC/2010/TC00325.html> for the Tribunal's ruling), in which the Tribunal dismissed Icebreaker's appeal against decision by HMRC to deny all but £11,900 of Icebreaker's £1.5 million trading loss for the tax year ending April 2004 - Icebreaker had argued that the expenditure that it had incurred on its first day of trading in film production and distribution gave rise to allowable losses which Icebreaker's members could set off by way of sideways loss relief against other income arising outside the trade. The Tribunal said "the bulk of the expenditure had nothing to do with Icebreaker's trade but was 'basically inserted into the structure to ramp up the apparent spending on trading items in order to increase the initial tax relief available to the LLP and its members". The article looks at the ruling in details and considers ways in which a similarly unfavourable ruling might be avoided in the future. (*"Analysis - Reviewing Icebreaker"* (2010) *Tax Journal*, Issue 1019, 22 - this article is available via LexisNexis).

Litigation

Whether Property Acquired by Gambling Funded by Illegal Activity Recoverable Under POCA

The claimant agency sought a civil recovery order pursuant to sections 243 and 266 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in respect of certain residential property, cash and bank accounts and shares held by the defendants - the defendants had inherited the assets from their husband and father who had died in prison while facing charges of laundering the proceeds of criminal property. The claimant argued that all the property in the application was recoverable property within the meaning of section 304 of the Act because it was obtained through, or represented the proceeds of, unlawful conduct. The primary unlawful conduct alleged was money laundering but three other classes of unlawful conduct were identified: drug trafficking, acting as an unlicensed bookmaker and dealing in counterfeit goods. The defendants argued that the property was not recoverable as the deceased was a "committed gambler" who kept money at home and the defendants were not able to assist as to the precise circumstances of the acquisition of the wealth. The court ruled that there was "no doubt" that the stake money used to finance the deceased's extensive gambling activity was the product of criminal activity, and thus all proceeds from the gambling were themselves tainted - the court undertook a tracing exercise to determine how the properties and assets were acquired or had arisen, whether from gambling (which was recoverable property) or genuine share dealing and the percentage of the property which had been acquired from the non-gambling activities was excluded from recovery. (*Serious Organised Crime Agency v The estate of Edward James Landon (Deceased) & Ors* [2010] EWHC 353 (QB) - see <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/QB/2010/353.html> for the judgment).

Music

IFPI Report on Record Companies' Investment in Music Industry

The IFPI has published a report which sets out details about the level and extent of investment by major and independent record companies in the music industry. Starting with the accepted wisdom that music is an investment-intensive business, which is illustrated by comparison with other industries expenditure on R&D (30% of the music business' sales revenues, totalling US\$5 billion worldwide is put into developing and marketing artists and this includes an estimated 16% of sales revenues that is spent on A&R), the report "debunks one big myth - that artists can easily build a sustainable and successful career in music without the help and support of a record label". It also states that record companies typically spend approximately US\$1 million to break successful pop acts in major markets. See http://www.ifpi.org/content/library/investing_in_music.pdf for the report.

The Concept of "The Concept Album" Preserved in Pink Floyd Ruling?

The former members of Pink Floyd have succeeded in the High Court in their application for a summary judgment against their record label EMI. The dispute concerned a contract that had been negotiated in 1998 and 1999 and whether it should be interpreted to mean that the band's songs were not allowed to be sold individually without the band's prior permission. This dispute arose in the context of an audit of a royalty statement carried out pursuant to the licence agreement, which had revealed that a number of areas were undercounted to the value of £10 million. However, only some claims remained as others were settled. The main disputes concerned online royalties and the sale of single tracks by EMI otherwise than in the original configuration of the albums without the

band's consent. According to the agreement, Pink Floyd albums should be sold as song bundles and not separated into individual tracks for sale however, EMI had sought to argue that the contract did not apply to online sales through services such as iTunes, which had been launched after the contract was signed. The court said the contract contained a clause to "preserve the artistic integrity of the albums" and noted that the contract meant EMI were "not entitled to exploit recording by online distribution or by any other means other than the original album, without the consent of Pink Floyd" and a declaration in relation to the meaning of the clause in question would be made by summary judgment to that effect. Commentators have welcomed the ruling, noting its protection of the concept album as "art" and even suggesting the drawing of a line in the sand as to how far consumers' rights should be allowed to go - one said "music isn't like cornflakes, or home insurance. This is art we're talking about, not commerce - 'consumer rights' only go so far. Why should one digital retailer define the limits of what constitutes the 'work'? Isn't that for the artist to decide?". Not so much as case of "don't bore us, get to the chorus" then... (Note: the band was also apparently successful over a challenge on the level of royalties paid by the record company but this part of the judgment was held in private). (*Pink Floyd Music Ltd & Anor v EMI Records Ltd, Unreported, Ch D, 11 March 2010 - the judgment was delivered orally and EMI was ordered to pay the claimant's costs and refused permission to appeal*).

Publishing

Statement in Open Court - Allegations of Unprofessional Conduct in Press Release

The claimant, a former employee of the first defendant, brought libel proceedings against the defendants as a result of statements made in a press release, which called into question the actions of the claimant in rating certain financial products. The press release had caused the claimant "significant professional embarrassment and distress". In a Statement in Open Court, it was acknowledged that the claimant had not acted in an unprofessional manner and that the libel matter had been settled - the defendants removed the press release from their website and undertook not to republish it and agreed to pay substantial damages and the claimant's legal costs. (*Levington v Moody's Investors Services Limited & Ors, Unreported, QBD, 25 February 2010*).

Defamatory Claims in Television Broadcast - Liability of Defendant and Measure of Damages

The claimant, a Russian national who was seeking political asylum in the UK, sued the defendants over the broadcast of a television programme on 1 April 2007, which suggested in an interview that the claimant had been a party to the murder of a well known former KGB spy. A significant part of the programme consisted in an interview with a person whose identity was partially disguised - the claimant alleged that the second defendant had been the person in the interview. Judgment in default had been entered into against both defendants in December 2008 and in July 2009, judgment was set aside in respect of the second defendant but not the first. At issue before the High Court was whether the second defendant was liable for defamation and the appropriate measure of damages against both defendants. The court found that there was "no doubt" that the second defendant was the interviewee, and that he had to have known that he was being filmed and recorded. The court also found that the second defendant could be fixed with the responsibility for two of the defamatory meanings but not the third - the court said it found on the evidence that he was responsible only for what he actually said on the programme. The allegations made in the interview were false and the second defendant would be held jointly liable with the first defendant broadcaster in defamation. On the question of the measure of damages the court said what it would focus on was "the seriousness of the allegation and the fact that it has gone uncorrected for about three years. The figure selected needs to compensate for distress, as well as the fact that the allegation was calculated to put at risk Mr Berezovsky's refugee status and leave to remain in the United Kingdom. It needs also to serve the purpose of vindication" - in the circumstances, £150,000 was felt to be appropriate. (*Berezovsky v The Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company & Anor [2010] EWHC 476 (QB)* - see <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/QB/2010/476.html> for the judgment).

Defamatory Allegations of Theft in Email - Defence of Qualified Privilege, Justification and Fair Comment

The claimant, a flight attendant employed by the second defendant, brought a libel action against the defendants following the circulation of an email to various employees of the second defendant which referred to an incident involving the claimant and the police - the email took the form of an internal report in the police investigation made the point that the claimant had been lucky to escape being charged with theft for having taken a number of miniature bottles of alcohol from a flight without having paid for them. Issues arose as to whether the first defendant had been actuated by malice in communicating the contents of that email and whether the words complained of were true in substance and fact. The defendants relied upon the rules governing crew purchases and the fact that the claimant had had ample opportunity to purchase any miniature bottles in accordance with the scheme during the course of the flight from Hong Kong - the court noted, "What is more, he put in his bag twice the permitted number of miniatures. It is on this basis that the inference is invited that it is more likely than not that he committed an opportunistic theft" however, it accepted on the balance of probabilities that the claimant

had not intended to steal the bottles and genuinely believed that he was entitled to bring in 12 miniatures to compensate for the fact that he had had no real opportunity to make a purchase on the flight out to Hong Kong (because of the local restrictions). On the issue of justification, the court found for the claimant. On the defence of qualified privilege the question was whether or not the claimant had proved, again on a balance of probabilities, that the author of the email was malicious in communicating what he had to say about the circumstances in which the 12 miniatures had been found in his possession. The court noted that findings of malice were "extremely rare ... not least because they are tantamount to findings of dishonesty" - the court found that the author of the email "believes to this day that Mr Hughes took those 12 miniatures without any intention to pay for them. He had no reason to be spiteful or malicious towards Mr Hughes in particular" - in the circumstances, malice was not established. The court ruled that the defendants were entitled to judgment. (*Hughes v Risbridger & Anor* [2010] EWHC 491 (QB) - see <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/QB/2010/491.html> for the judgment - a further remedy sought by the claimant was in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 as the claimant said that BA's employment records should have been corrected as he had not been charged - the court accepted that this was "parasitic" on the defamation claimed and died with it).

Sport

When Sport Goes Bad - Footballer Sentenced for GBH

A Rugby and District Sunday League footballer who broke an opponent's leg as a result of a tackle which was both deliberate and pre-meditated and demonstrated "wanton violence" only moments before the end of the game has been sentenced to six months imprisonment for grievous bodily harm. The Warwick Crown Court judge said, "This was a deliberate act, a premeditated act. A football match gives no one any excuse to carry out wanton violence" - the Football Association said that this was the first instance of any player being imprisoned for an on-field tackle, noting that other instances of players being imprisoned had related to incidents on the pitch but that they were "nothing like this".

New Legislation - Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations

The Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010, SI 2010/543 come into force on 6 April 2010. The Regulations introduce a set of minimum welfare standards for all greyhound racing tracks in England, which will be enforced by a local authority, via a local authority licensing scheme. At present, the only animal welfare legislation that covers greyhounds at greyhound racing tracks are the general cruelty and welfare provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. There are approximately 33 greyhound racing tracks in England, which are divided into two sectors - those tracks regulated by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) and those who operate independently of the GBGB. The GBGB enforces its own welfare standards at 26 GBGB-affiliated tracks in England however, there is no similar enforcement of welfare standards at the remaining independent tracks and welfare standards at those tracks vary with only a minority of them meeting what the Government would regard as "acceptable" welfare standards. The Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare has estimated that the average number of greyhounds racing on all tracks is 14,000, although the precise figure is unknown (and it also noted that a minimum of 4,728 dogs each year in Great Britain remain "unaccounted for" after their racing lives finish). Regulations were therefore needed to ensure that there is one minimum welfare standard that applies to all tracks in England and that all greyhounds used by the sport are permanently identified with the details of the owner on a national database (and quite frankly, when you read the "minimum standards" that the Regulations are only now looking to set it is surprising that this sport hasn't been more closely targeted by animal rights campaigners). See http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/pdf/uksi_20100543_en.pdf for details.

New Legislation - Football Spectators (Prescription) (Amendment) Order

The Football Spectators (Prescription) (Amendment) Order 2010, SI 2010/584 comes into force on 1 April 2010. The Order amends the Football Spectators (Prescription) Order 2004 by including three new types of association football match within the regulated football match provisions of Part II of the Football Spectators Act 1989 - Part II deals with banning orders and this Order reflects changes to the Act made by sections 103 to 107 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 ensuring that football banning orders made under the Football Spectators Act are recognised and enforced in Scotland and Northern Ireland and that similar orders made under Scottish legislation are enforced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. See http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/pdf/uksi_20100584_en.pdf for details.

Technology

OGC Procurement Guidance on Blocking Access to Unauthorised Sites

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) has sent an Action Note to all Departments (including their agencies, offices and NDPBs), prohibiting them from using internet service providers (ISPs), mobile telephone operators, search providers and filtering companies that refuse to block websites containing images of child sex abuse. According to Note, all departments procurement specifications "regarding the provision of internet related services must include a requirement that the service provider must block access to those Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) specified on the IWF's list". The list, which is maintained by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and is updated twice daily, contains between 500 and 800 websites. Interestingly, in the recent debates concerning the controversial amendment to the Digital Economy Bill relating to site blocking (Amendment 120A), Lord Clement-Jones in justification for the amendment said, "Site blocking is not a new phenomenon. It is used with great success in other spheres to restrict access to sites hosting illegal content. The most well known is the recommended list of sites to block provided by the Internet Watch Foundation. A direct analogy is obviously difficult given the content that the IWF monitors-child sexual abuse content hosted worldwide and criminally obscene and incitement to racial hatred content hosted in the UK-but the important fact is that sites are routinely blocked. Recently, in response to a Parliamentary Question on the blocking of websites identified as containing illegal images of child pornography, Alan Campbell MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State responsible for crime reduction said: 'The Government regularly receives representations relating to blocking, from different sections of society. The Government discusses issues relating to child protection, including blocking of websites containing illegal images, with a wide range of stakeholders. The Government are clear that the use of blocking to prevent access to such images is something that Internet Service Providers should do, and the Government have been very pleased with the response from the Internet industry". See http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/PPN_05_10_Blocking_illegal_sites.pdf for the OGC Note - what impact this will have on other organisations who are increasingly coming under pressure to block sites remains to be seen.

Consultations & Reports

Nominet Consultation - Consultation on the Release of Two Letter, One Character and Other Reserved .uk Domain Names - <http://www.nic.uk/about/consultations/reservedshortdomains/> (Nominet is consulting on proposed changes to its Rules of Domain Name Registration that would be necessary to allow the release of two letter, one character and other reserved .uk domain names, and also on its proposed release mechanism, by which it would allow registered rights-holders to apply first, followed by unregistered rights-holders, and provide procedures for allocation in the event of competing rights-holders).

Ofcom Consultation - ITV and BBC Request Ofcom Consent for Football World Cup 2010 Coverage - <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/worldcup2010/> (Ofcom is consulting on requests from ITV and the BBC for consent to broadcast live coverage of the World Cup Football Championship 2010 - the Championship is a Group A Listed Event, which means that the rights to broadcast live coverage must have been offered to both categories of broadcasters specified in the Broadcasting Act 1996).