

DANNY ALEXANDER MP  
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Peter Davies  
Director of Radio and Multimedia  
Office of Communications (Ofcom)  
Riverside House,  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 9HA

Our ref: IN2914

30 November 2006

Re: Future of Digital Radio

Dear Mr Davies,

I have been contacted by RadioCentre, who are concerned about the future of commercial radio in the UK, in response to the recently published Ofcom discussion document 'The Future of Radio - the future of FM and AM services and the alignment of analogue and digital regulation'.

They are concerned that the range of services provided by commercial radio stations across the UK should be safeguarded in line with Ofcom's analysis that 'the regulatory burden on analogue local radio may be unsustainable'.

With rapid growth taking place on digital platforms such as the internet and DAB, I would like to offer my support to Ofcom in addressing the challenges faced by commercial radio, such as competition and stricter regulations than digital channels. As Chair of the All Party Media Literacy Group which works closely with Ofcom as its secretariat, I am particularly interested in these issues. A recent meeting highlighted the importance of retaining variety among analogue providers, particularly for those sectors of the population, especially many elderly people, who find themselves excluded from digital markets.

I look forward to receiving your comments on the future of commercial radio in the UK.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Danny Alexander', on a yellow background.

Danny Alexander MP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Davies', on a yellow background.