

**Name and title:** John Ferguson

**Representing:** Self

**Comments:**

Having considered the various formats that are available to Digital listeners, I should like to express my concerns about the availability, signal strength and quality of Digital output.

I live in the Reading area and travel daily to London by train. The digital reception in Reading is virtually none existant and only FM gives anything approaching a reasonable reception. Digital programmes do not become available until I arrive in London. The quality of sound on digital is very poor and my understanding is that the waveband has been reduced to allow for more stations at the expense of quality. In my view the argument that listeners want quantity not quality is wrong. There is no substitute for quality and if poor quality sound is the objective then many potential radio listeners will download quality programme to their iPod or MP3 player instead.

From a purely personal perspective I need a) good reception which means more power to the transmitters and more transmitters, b)good sound quality to at least high fidelity stereo and preferably to surround sound quality c) Fewer but better stations including sports coverage, news, good music across the spectrum and radio drama.

The current DAB policy is fatally flawed. Using MP2 will ensure "minimal quality". It is an old almost redundant standard and OfCom needs to recommend at least AAC+ . Many people are beginning to invest in equipment and we should be looking to provide the best radio medium available for both stationary and mobile radio listeners.

John Ferguson