

**Name and title:** Mr Doug Eltham

**Representing:** Self

**Comments:**

To switch off FM radio broadcasting in the UK would first need the quality of DAB radio to be significantly increased so that its quality is similar to FM. I purchased a DAB HiFi tuner 2 years ago and sold it within a week due to the poor sound quality. And no, the increased number of stations was not a welcome compromise.

Audio quality needs to be increased by one of two methods. Either increase the encoding rate to at least 192kbps for stereo music stations at a bare minimum, preferably 256kbps. Option two is to change the encoding method. I believe this 'in the pipeline' but could take many years for all stations to transfer to the AAC+ codec. Furthermore, changing the encoding method will make all current DAB sets obsolete, meaning that current DAB set ownership figures should not be an indicator used to set the date for the FM switch off.

The switch off of analogue TV should be used as a welcome opportunity to increase the band width available for DAB to increase its bitrate. NOT to increase the number of channels.