



Radio – Licensing Policy for VHF Band 111, sub band 3 Consultation question A4

- 1. In light of the further evidence presented in this document, Ofcom proposes to allocate three blocks of spectrum in VHF Band 111, sub band 3 for local radio multiplexes under the licensing process set out in the Broadcasting Act 1996, with the aim of covering geographical areas that do not presently have local radio multiplexes. Ofcom also proposes to allocate one block of spectrum in the same sub-band from a national radio multiplex under the licensing process set out in the Broadcasting Act 1996.*

Do you agree that these proposals represent the optimum use of the spectrum?

GMG Radio believe these to be welcome proposals, which positively tackle the existing situation and coverage problems with openness and clarity and in a way that best serves public and stakeholder policy.

Local Multiplex

The objective and challenge of providing viable local commercial radio services in the digital environment where currently there are none will be welcomed by the smaller radio companies who have seen this as a major and costly obstacle to future progress and the advertising and application process for these additional services under the Broadcasting Act 1996 appears to be the fairest way forward.

National Multiplex

GMG Radio has made its views known to Ofcom in the previous Phase 1 consultation and still wishes to see a further National Multiplex licensed under the Broadcasting Act 1996 for radio broadcasting only and thereby ensure that all multiplex licence holders operate within the same regulatory restrictions.

However we understand why Ofcom would wish to consider this further on the basis of ensuring public policy objectives are achieved with greater flexibility.

We note the anticipated deadlines for taking the proposals forward and as GMG Radio is an interested party in the National Multiplex application process, we would

be pleased to discuss this further with Ofcom, should they feel it to be advantageous at this stage.

For further information please contact:

Jeff Stephenson
Development Director and Head of Compliance
GMG Radio
Capitol Park
Sterling Court
Leeds
WF3 1EL

Tel: 0113 3071400 Mobile: 07710 073021

Jeff.Stephenson@gmgradio.co.uk www.gmgradio.co.uk

15th November 2005.