

LOCAL RADIO SERVICE UNDERGOING CHANGE OF CONTROL: REVIEW OF EFFECTS OF CHANGE OF CONTROL

(in accordance with sections 355 & 356 of the Communications Act 2003)

GALAXY 102.2 FM (BIRMINGHAM)

AL046-2

EXISTING FORMAT

Description of Service:

A RHYTHMIC-BASED MUSIC AND INFORMATION STATION PRIMARILY FOR LISTENERS OF AFRICAN OR AFRO-CARIBBEAN ORIGIN, BUT WITH CROSS-OVER APPEAL TO YOUNG WHITE FANS OF URBAN CONTEMPORARY BLACK MUSIC

Detail:

During daytime the music will be drawn from three main genres, reflecting particular appeal to a Black audience: Soul, R 'n'B and rhythmic hits. Rhythmic hits should never account for more than 45% of the output. Additional music genres of appeal to the target audience such as rap, reggae/hip-hop, house and garage will also feature regularly. In non daytime specialist music genres which complement the main music mix may be aired. This will amount to at least 17 hours a week, to include R&B, hip hop, reggae, raga and specialist dance music. Bank holidays/weekends may include specialist or themed programming.

Speech will not exceed 25% of output, but will focus heavily on the interests of the target audience as defined, including such items as community fund-raising, community news, OB's, reports from overseas (such as the Caribbean), music performances. Local news bulletins will run at least during weekday peaktime. National news will feature at weekends.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMME SERVICE

Scheduling and duration of any specific programmes or features required by the Format (e.g. specialist music shows, extended news bulletins, output for a specific ethnic minority, religious output, alternate language output etc).

Galaxy 102.2 currently exceeds the 17 hours of specialist programming required by the format with programmes Monday – Thursday 11pm-1am Friday 9pm-6am Saturday 3pm- 9am & Sunday 4pm-1am. Our specialist programming includes R&B, hip-hop, reggae, raga and specialist dance music.

Scheduling and duration of any such programmes or features not specifically required by the Format, but which the station is currently (or has until recently) been broadcasting regularly.

As above

Quantity of programming that is currently automated (if any), and when this is scheduled. (Note: information about the precise scheduling of automated sequences may be supplied to Ofcom in confidence).

Monday – Thursday 11pm-6am; Friday 9pm – 11pm; Saturday 2-6am & 7pm – 9am

Quantity, scheduling, duration and nature of programming currently being broadcast that is syndicated and/or networked (if any).

Networked Monday & Wednesday Friday 7pm-6am; Saturday 3pm-9am; Sunday 7pm-6am

Syndicated Tuesday 11pm-1am Sunday 4-7pm

Arrangements currently in place for the compilation, production and presentation of local news.

A team of 6 journalists generate local news 7 days a week at the following times

Monday to Friday

0620,0650,0720,0750,0820,0850

1550,1650,1750

Weekends and Bank Holidays

0850,0950,1050,1150

All news is generated, written, produced and presented locally (with the exception of Sky Radio News during the A-List on Sunday afternoons).

This local news resource also generates, produces and presents news for its sister station Heart 100.7 in the West Midlands. There is an informal agreement in place with Smooth so very occasionally it will share stories (eg two major things happen in the West Midlands so Galaxy will cover one, they'll cover the other and they swap stories).

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF CHANGE OF CONTROL IN RELATION TO:

i) local material and locally-made programmes:

It appears to Ofcom that the relevant change of control would not be prejudicial to the provision of local material or locally-made programmes.

ii) character of the service:

It appears to Ofcom that the relevant change of control would not be prejudicial to the character of service.

iii) quality and range of programmes included in the service:

Galaxy is a specialist music station delivering its obligations as stated. It appears to Ofcom that the relevant change of control would not be prejudicial to the quality or that range of programmes.

OFCOM'S CONCLUSION AFTER MONITORING/PLAYLIST ANALYSIS AND VERBAL SCRUTINY. SUGGESTED VARIATIONS TO THE LICENCE (IF ANY)

None

15 08 2007