

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)

FORTH 2 AL098-2

EXISTING FORMAT

Description of Service:

FORTH 2 IS A FULL SERVICE STATION AIMED PRIMARILY AT OVER 35s IN THE EDINBURGH AREA.

Detail:

Forth 2 plays a broad range of music, primarily classic pop and easy listening from across the years. (Hits less than two years old, though, will never make up more than 50% of the music output). The station will feature information, sport, whats-ons and other items aimed at the target audience. Speech should not normally fall below 10% of weekday daytime output. Hourly bulletins containing local news will be aired at least during peaktime, with national or regional news featured at other times. Specialist programmes featuring music which clearly complements the main music mix may be aired in non daytime. The specialist schedule should include such strands as Scottish, country, easy listening and any other appropriate genres.

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).

Required Scottish programme is Ken's Ceilidh, broadcast Sundays 1800 – 2000. The required Country programme is Barrie Country, broadcast Sundays 2000 – 2200 and the required Easy Listening programme is The Lounge broadcast Sundays 2200 – 0100.

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.

Other specialist output is Superscoreboard (Saturdays 1445 – 1800) with reports from local sporting fixtures; Transistor Boogie (Saturdays 1800 – 2100) featuring the music of Mo'Town, Atlantic and Stax; The Open Line (Sundays 0000 – 0200), two hours of social action speech; View From Earth (Sundays 0600 – 0700) religious magazine; and the Forth 2 Phone In (Sundays 1100 – 1200), a weekly topical Phone-In debate programme.

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).

Our overnight programming (0100 – 0600 daily, except Sunday 0200 – 0600) is automated. The Big Easy (Tuesday to Saturday 0000 – 0100) is also automated. View from Earth (Sundays 0600 – 0700) is recorded in advance and played out automatically.

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

None of Forth 2's programmes are received from outside. All are made at the studios in Edinburgh.

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

Weekdays, all bulletins are local 0600 – 1900 inclusive; at weekends they are local 0800 – 1400 inclusive. Evenings and weekend afternoons, bulletins originate from Glasgow with Edinburgh content provided by Forth.

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:

This station is delivering its Format obligations.
The specialist programmes listed are vehicles for part of the Format delivery. In themselves they represent but one method of providing a wide-ranging programme choice as part of that delivery. It would not be prudent to tie the station to this one particular method. 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

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