

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)

AL057/2 – MORAY FIRTH RADIO (FM) (Inverness)

EXISTING FORMAT

Description of Service:

A MUSIC, NEWS AND INFORMATION STATION FOR THE INVERNESS AREA.

Detail:

Moray Firth Radio is a broad service station playing a mix of chart hits, gold, easy listening, Scottish (and complementary genres) although current hits from the last year should never make up more than 60% of the music output. The station will, in addition to the music, feature information, sport, whats-ons, social action broadcasting, appeals, and other items aimed at the target audience.

Speech should not normally fall below 15% 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 may be aired in non daytime. The specialist schedule should reflect the wide target audience and include some soul, blues, dance, indie and classical.

Utilising the relays for local community opt-out programming, primarily in the evenings, is at the management discretion.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMME SERVICE

Scheduling and duration of any specific programmes (music, speech, local or linguistic) required by the Format.

Dance – Saturdays, 2000-2300hrs

Blues/Jazz – Sundays, 1900-2100hrs

Indie – Sundays, 2100-2300hrs

Social action/appeals (MFR Action) – 1 min inserts publicising charity or community appeal (3 x daily)

(Classical output – see AM output review)

Content, duration and scheduling of any specific programmes (music, speech, local or linguistic) the station has currently or recently been broadcasting not specifically required by the Format

None.

Quantity of programming currently automated, and when scheduled.

Mondays-Saturdays, 0100-0600hrs

Sundays, 0200-0600hrs

Quantity of programming currently being broadcast that is syndicated and/or networked, and when scheduled.

Most of Moray Firth's output is simulcast on both AM and FM; however, output is split for roughly six hours per day, at the following times: weekdays 0000-0100 and 1900-0000; Saturdays 0000-0100 and 1700-2300; Sundays 1900-0000). In addition to this AM/FM split, four localities within the station's MCA (Caithness, Aviemore, Fraserburgh and Keith) operate opt-out services between 1900-0000hrs daily, and sometimes additionally between 0600-0900 and 1400-1700hrs at weekends.

Hit 40 UK – Sundays, 1600-1900

Arrangements in place for the compilation, production and presentation of local news (e.g. any sharing of resources with other radio stations, local newspapers or other sources).

All daytime bulletins throughout the week (i.e. between hours of 0600-1900 Mondays-Fridays; 0800-1400 weekends) are locally produced & presented.

Outwith these times MFR uses SRH's Scottish News Service for its national/international bulletins, which air most hours overnight.

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 the service.

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

It appears to Ofcom that the relevant change of control would not be prejudicial to the quality and range of programmes included in the service.

SUGGESTED VARIATIONS TO THE LICENCE (IF ANY)

None.

27 July 2005

