

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)

Six FM (Mid Ulster) (Formerly Mid FM)

EXISTING FORMAT

Description of Service:

A locally focussed music and information service with community involvement for 15 - 54 year-olds in the Cookstown, Magherafelt and Dungannon area.

Detail:

Speech and local information are important ingredients of the service and will include community information and features, weather/traffic/travel/what's-ons, job vacancies and outside broadcasts. Bulletins containing local news will air once each daytime hour, with at least 3 extended bulletins each weekday. The music will be a mix of current and classic hits from the 60s to date with no one decade dominating the output and current/recurrent hits not exceeding 40%; contemporary Irish and modern country will be regularly featured during daytime. Outside daytime and at weekends the music may include more current/recurrent/chart/new material and/or more specialist music genres/programmes (eg golden country). The service must be based within the licence area, but live, co-branded, overnight programming from 2200 (1800 Saturdays) may originate from Seven FM.

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).

- Local news

Bulletins containing local news air between 0700-2000 weekdays and 0900-1800 at weekends (networked from Seven FM). IRN outside of these times. Half hour headlines during peak times on weekdays. Extended bulletins at 0800, 1300 and 1800 weekdays

- Local features, interviews

Included in local news and sports bulletins which contain locally sourced content. Also included in specialist sports shows at weekends, magazine slots during weekdays (e.g. Fashion Weekly on Thursdays, The Home Show on Fridays etc), and mid-morning show (Six Café) weekdays

- Travel news

Twice an hour during peak hours (0700 to 0900 and 1600 to 1900) weekdays

- Outside broadcasts

A regular part of Six FM's output, recent OBs

- Youth-orientated programming

Every weekday evening Six FM broadcast Six To The Max, which comprises more youth orientated music (Top-20) and features

- Entertainment news

Three times a day on weekdays

- What's-ons, community events

What's on guides are a feature of the mid-morning show on weekdays.

Community Lifeline - The Lifeline enables charities and non-profit making organizations to publicize their events. It's a free service. Just get in touch and tell us the details of your event, and we'll voice it, and put it on the Community Lifeline slot on Six FM, which goes out four times a day.

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.

Business news twice a day weekdays – 90 seconds per bulletin
Farming news three times a day weekdays – 90 seconds per bulletin
Country music on Sunday evenings – two hours
Feel Good Weekly (health and beauty) Monday mornings – 15 minutes
On The Road (motoring) Wednesday mornings – 15 minutes
Fashion Weekly Thursday mornings – 15 minutes
The Home Show Friday mornings – 15 minutes

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).

Up to 47 hours per week (precise scheduling information supplied separately to Ofcom).

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

The Late Lounge – 2300 to 0200 Monday to Friday (Easy listening music)
The A-List Chart – 1600 to 1900 Sunday (Top-40)
Movie Magic – 1900 – 2000 Sunday (Movie music and news)
Entertainment NI – 2000 to 2100 Sunday (New music and gig guide in Northern Ireland)
American Country – 2100 to 2300 Sunday (American country music)

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

Two full-time journalists at Six FM who work Monday to Saturday.
Additional stories taken from other stations.

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:

Many features and programmes are not strictly formal obligations, but represent one method of a wide-range programming delivery. Decisions about the nature of the feature and specialist spots that are not required by the Format may be made at some time in the future. But it appears to Ofcom that the relevant change of control would not be prejudicial to the quality or that range of programmes.

SUGGESTED VARIATIONS TO THE LICENCE (IF ANY)

None.

27 April 2007