

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)

AL239 – SOUTHCITY FM (Southampton)

EXISTING FORMAT

Description of Service:

Southampton-centred service of local news, views, information and entertainment mixed with mainstream hits from the last three/four decades.

Detail:

Format requires fair number of specific features, including 'daily charitable information' and 'sailing/shipping/tidal reports'. Local news must run hourly during weekday daytime and weekend peak. One/two extended bulletins totalling approx 30 mins. must be aired each weekday. Music is mix of classic hits from last 30 yrs with max. 30% current and min. 25% over 21 yrs (with contemporary bias permitted outside daytime). Up to four hours automation permitted in daytime.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMME SERVICE

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

- 1) 'Sunday morning religious programme' – airs between 0700-0900 Sundays and was (until his recent departure) presented by a local priest (now presented by his protégé). Extended from 1hr to 2hrs when proved popular.
- 2) 'Weekly 2hr programme aimed at students' – airs 1900-2200 Sundays (term time only). Branded as 'The Common Room', student presenter, some coverage of new/local bands, but aims to be inclusive.

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

No shows, but station has been broadcasting a live music feature on weekday nights at 2130. Two yrs ago they struggled to get bands to fill the slot – now they are being swamped by tapes.

Quantity of programming currently automated, and when scheduled

Evenings and overnights from 1900 (1800 Sat) to 0600 (0700 Sat, 0900 Sun). Although Format permits up to 4hrs daytime automation this is rarely used on weekdays, when usually only 1815-1900 sequence automated (although more at weekends).

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

Smash Hits Chart (Sundays 1600-1900) is only syndicated output (and nothing prior to that).

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).

Local news is entirely locally produced/presented. No news-sharing in operation.

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF CHANGE OF CONTROL IN RELATION TO:

i) Local Content and Character of Service:

Not prejudicial.

ii) Character of Service:

Not prejudicial.

iii) Quality and Range of Programmes:

Not prejudicial.

SUGGESTED VARIATIONS TO THE LICENCE (IF ANY)

None.