

Rotherham independent local radio licence applications

Questions and responses: Rother FM

These are the responses received from Rother FM to the non-confidential questions asked by Ofcom regarding their application for the Rotherham licence.

1. Please clarify, for the purposes of your Format, the duration of the local element of news bulletins on weekday evenings.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify this. Bulletins of mixed local/national/world news, which will be broadcast on the hour until 1800, will be of at least three minutes' duration. After this time, local news headlines will run until midnight in the form of a one-minute summary following the national bulletin, the overall duration of the entire bulletin being at least three minutes.

2. Please expand on the nature of the "other items of local interest" referred to in the Format.

Page 32 of the application, addressing the question of the provision of local material, has more on this subject. We were reluctant to be too specific in the draft Format because the nature of these items very much depends on what's going on locally at any particular time. However, we intended the phrase to cover such items as locally-relevant talking points, support for charity and community activities, competitions such as Teacher of the Year and news and chat about what local groups and personalities are up to – in fact, all those elements of localness that don't fit neatly into boxes marked "news", "sport", "what's on", "travel" or "weather".

In the event of a licence award we would be happy for the words "which may include items such as locally-relevant talking points and features about local community initiatives" to be included in our format after the phrase "other items of local interest" if Ofcom felt it necessary for the purposes of clarity.