

**Format Change Request Form OfW 332**

<b>Station Name:</b>	Time 106.6
<b>Name of Person Proposing Format Change:</b>	Neil Romain
<b>Outline Format Change(s) Proposals:</b>	To reduce the format requirement for the station to broadcast at least two extended local news bulletins of a minimum of 10 minutes during weekday peaktime, to one extended local news bulletin of a minimum of 10 minutes during weekday daytime. Thus the format would be changed to require the station to produce one extended bulletin together with local bulletins during daytime rather than solely during peaktime.

**Operators of analogue local radio licences may apply to Ofcom to have the station's Format amended. Any application should be made using the layout shown on this form, and should be in accordance with Ofcom's published procedures for Format changes (available on our website).**

**Under section 106(1A) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as amended\*), Ofcom may consent to the change only if it is satisfied that *at least one* of the following four criteria is satisfied:**

- (a) *that the departure would not substantially alter the character of the service;*
- (b) *that the departure would not narrow the range of programmes available by way of relevant independent radio services to persons living the area or locality for which the service is licensed to be provided;*
- (c) *that the departure would be conducive to the maintenance or promotion of fair and effective competition; or*
- (d) *that there is evidence that, amongst persons living in that area or locality, there is a significant demand for, or significant support for, the change that would result from the departure.*

Only one of these four criteria need be satisfied in order for Ofcom to consent to the proposed change. However, even if Ofcom is of the opinion that the proposed change satisfies one or more of the statutory criteria, there may be reasons (depending on the particularly circumstances of the case) why Ofcom may not consent to the proposed change.

In addition, applicants should note that, under section 106ZA of the same Act (as amended\*), a proposed change that *does not* satisfy the first of these criteria (i.e. a change that Ofcom considers *would or could* substantially alter the character of the service) must, if it is to be considered further under any of the other three criteria, be consulted upon. #.

In the event that Ofcom receives a request for Format change and considers that criterion (a) is *not* satisfied, it will seek confirmation from the applicant as to whether it wishes to proceed with the request (and, if so, whether it wishes to amend or replace its submission in light of the necessity to make it public).

Please present your submission in the following manner:

#### **Section 106(a) relevance...**

This change will reinforce the local news provision on Time 106.6 by ensuring that delivery of a good and consistent local news service is included across the whole of weekday daytime. The character of the service will be maintained.

#### **Section 106 (b), (c) and (d) relevance...**

The change requested will allow the small local news team more flexibility and create more time to source and edit local news stories. The resource implications for building extended bulletins are significant and do not represent an efficient use of the limited resources that are available. By reducing the obligation for the station to deliver two extended bulletins to an obligation to produce only one extended bulletin it will be more able to provide its local news bulletins across the whole of daytime programming. We believe that this will result in the audience getting a higher quality and more consistent local news product overall.

#### **Any additional information and/or evidence in support of proposed change(s).**

We recognise the need to provide a good local news product on the station, however we are acutely aware that within a tightly resourced news team the balance required to produce extended bulletins against sourcing good local news stories is often difficult. We are also conscious that feedback from listeners indicates that 10 minute news bulletins can be longer than necessary and may not either reinforce the character of the service nor provide a unique listener proposition in today's media climate. We believe that the change proposed to the format will be a positive development for the station and listeners alike

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Notes

\* As amended by sections 312 and 313 of the Communications Act 2003

# Ofcom may approve a change under any of criteria (b) to (d) without consultation, or after a consultation of less than 28 days, if Ofcom considers that to hold a consultation at all, or for 28 days or more, would result in a delay that would be likely to prejudice the interests of the licensee. Ofcom may also remove for the purposes of consultation any confidential information submitted by the licensee.

Version 4 – amended March 2007

**OFCOM NOTES ON REQUEST : As with the recent agreed change of Format for Your Radio, the underlying reasons for the request are not unreasonable in that news minutage will not be reduced to any great degree and, therefore, the character of service will not be affected. There will be a more effective use of staff and the extra daytime bulletins will bring benefits for the listener. The request is allowed.**