

Format Change Request Form OfW 332

Station Name:

Your Radio

**Name of Person
Proposing Format
Change:**

Susan Dignon

**Outline Format Change(s)
Proposals:**

To shorten the 10 minute 5pm bulletin. Moving to two 5 minute bulletins 5pm and 6pm with additional headlines at 4.30pm.

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...

The departure requested will improve the existing service with the introduction of an additional headlines sequence, and more locally targeted 5pm and 6pm bulletins

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

The departure requested will improve our existing news service. With only a 2 person news team it currently takes our journalist covering the afternoon shift a considerable amount of time to build the existing 10 minute bulletin at 5pm. By reducing this bulletin to only 5 minutes this will allow our journalist to spend more time sourcing and editing local news plus forward planning for the next day. This will increase the local content overall. We propose to increase the length of our 6pm bulletin to 5 minutes and add an additional news and sport headline at 4.30pm

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

We constantly strive to bring our audience the highest quality local news service possible. At the moment resources only allow us to run the news team with 2 journalists, meaning only 1 running the news desk at any one time. This can make it difficult to attend every local press conference and gather as much local audio as we would like, with the existing constraints of putting together the 10 minute 5pm bulletin. Feedback from listeners also indicates that the existing 10 minute news bulletin is longer than necessary. We are confident that if approved, the changes will allow us to deliver and even higher quality, more locally focussed news service.

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.

OFCOM NOTES ON THE REQUEST

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. More effective use of staff is clearly a priority here, and an additional news headline – as part of the station's full news schedule - may bring some extra benefit. The request is allowed.