

Community radio licence: key commitments

Licence outline

Station name	Resonance FM
Community to be served	Practising artists and engaged consumers and persons standing outside mainstream media.
Licence area	Central London (within a 5km radius of the transmitter site)
Frequency	104.4 MHz

Character of service

Resonance FM will provide a service primarily for practising artists and engaged consumers whose interests fall outside the mainstream media. The service seeks to make public those forms of expression and artworks that have no place in traditional radio broadcasting and bring into being a new audience of listeners and creators. The station will also deliver some multicultural content to the diverse urban community.

Programming

The service will include radio artworks made especially for and exploring the medium of radio, and offer a wide variety of music output and speech programming with an emphasis on cultural and community matters.

- Output will typically comprise 65% music and 30% speech ('speech' excludes advertising, programme/promotional trails and sponsor credits).
- Music-based output will place an emphasis on alternative and experimental music. It will include programmes with a specific bias towards a range of musical styles such as free jazz and improvised, electronic, sonic and radio art, reggae, independent rock, dance and club, avant-garde and contemporary classical, roots and world, musique concrete, noise, field recordings and found sounds, plus programming dedicated to specific displaced or under-represented communities such as Brazilian, Congolese, Serbian, Albanian and Portuguese.
- Speech-based output will include discussion, alternative news programmes and interviews, documentary, literary spoken word, and occasional phone-ins, comedy, drama and poetry. Subjects may include cultural theory, political issues, environmental concerns, civic responsibility, pensioners' rights, mental health, and visual and plastic arts.
- Output will be broadcast primarily in English with some output in other community languages such as Farsi, Serbian and Albanian. Community

language programmes will change from time to time.

- Live programming (with pre-recorded inserts as applicable) will typically comprise around 72 hours per week.

Social gain objectives

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of community radio services that they are local services provided primarily (a) for the good of members of the public, or of particular communities, and (b) in order to deliver social gain, rather than primarily for commercial reasons or for the financial or other material gain of the individuals involved in providing the service."

"(a) the provision of sound broadcasting services to individuals who are otherwise underserved"

- Resonance FM will provide a service for practising artists and engaged consumers whose interests fall outside the mainstream media and for those whose access to media is restricted or limited due to language, ethnicity, lack of formal training opportunities and cultural bias. The service will be multicultural, transcending age barriers, and will typically develop programmes for marginalised, disadvantaged persons and groups within the community. The station intends where possible to expand and diversify to respond to the necessities of the often rapidly shifting urban audience.

"(b) the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion"

- The station will invite guests to take part in discussion programmes on topics such as culture, health, education, crime and other civic and community related matters. Community groups will be encouraged to initiate and realise their own programming. Some output will promote cultural identity as well as encouraging debate and discussion from a variety of cultural perspectives.

"(c) the provision (whether by means of programmes included in the service or otherwise) or education or training to individuals not employed by the person providing the service"

- Education of listeners is part and parcel of many programmes, with educational content on a variety of topics such as conservation, natural history, alternative health, local history.
- The formal institution of training opportunities will include work with educational, artistic, creative and community groups and institutions active within the broadcast area.
- Weekly Cool Edit Pro (audio editing) training sessions will be offered to programme makers and engineers

- Training in programme production, editing and engineering will be offered at the studios as appropriate. All new programme makers will receive basic broadcast and production training. Community groups that wish to broadcast will be offered training in programme production.
- Ten new engineers will be offered training per year; two work placements will be organised per year.

“(d) the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of the links within it”

- Resonance FM broadcasts arts, music, cultural and community material not available elsewhere. Feedback is encouraged both by individual programme makers through phone-ins, email, individual programmes’ websites, and by the service as a whole.
- Collaborations are encouraged between programme makers and engineers. Discussion will be facilitated through a dedicated on-line forum, accessible by programme makers and engineers.

Additional social gain objectives:

- Resonance will forge promotional links for the mutual benefit of the service and contributors e.g. through print media, CD releases, opportunities to perform live at fund- and consciousness-raising events.

Access and participation

Community Radio Order 2004: “It is a characteristic of every community radio service that members of the community it is intended to serve are given opportunities to participate in the operation and management of the service.”

- Volunteers are encouraged and workshop days will be held at the studio each quarter.
- Engineers are encouraged to develop technical skills and to assist in training programme makers and to encourage them to develop basic broadcasting skills.
- A membership scheme (‘Friends of Resonance’) will be set up.

Accountability to the target community

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of every community radio service that, in respect of the provision of that service, the person providing the service makes himself accountable to the community that the service is intended to serve."

- An Advisory Panel will be set up, and a formal mechanism within the group will be created to develop good lines of communication between management, the Advisory Panel, the Board of Directors and volunteers.
- Contact between listeners and broadcasters will be encouraged on-air, by email and live forum discussion (i.e. a dedicated website comprising self-explanatory sections accessible to the listeners and general public).
- There will be a dedicated programme makers' section of the website to allow for individual volunteers to correspond and express their views to the management.
- Transparency will be a key element of the service. Information relating to all aspects of the service (such as reports to funders, confidentiality agreements permitting) will be made available on request wherever possible.

**All material in italics is direct quotations from the Community Radio Order 2004*

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