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Representing: Self

What are your comments on these proposals?:

My comment relates to that of DAB audio quality.

I own three DAB radios, one hifi tuner, on kitchen radio and in the car. I have to agree with other comments that I have read that the audio quality is superb on DAB to a point.

My hesitation comes with the broadcast of services in mono on this platform. When listening on the kitchen radio with one speaker all stations sound fine, but once I tune in, in my car or lounge the difference is noticeable! As the regulator of the communications industry, I think Ofcom need to put more parameters in place when licencing multiplexes to ensure that multiplex owners don't fill up their space with many mono stations with below standard bit rates in order to make more money.

The public will eventually get wind of the poor mono quality when more car receivers are in the market etc... We cant think that the uptake will only be one speaker kitchen portables!

This lack of bit rate quality will determine the take up of DAB, and that will only come through word of mouth throughout the population!

Take two examples, tune into HEAT radio in London, then to GALAXY also in London on a stereo DAB radio, they both are on DAB but sound poles apart in quality! My second point is with digital one. I think selling a third of your multiplex to mobile tv, which no one is watching!, to the detriment of providing quality stereo DAB broadcasts is unbelievable, especially, when Digital 1 are the main backers of this format and trying to encourage take up!. When i emailed them about this their excuse for mono services was that most radios being sold were one speaker models! You cant build a new platform on this silly assumption!

In conclusion, Ofcom need to set limits on bit rate and stereo/ mono services for stations multiplex owners wish to broadcast. This is for the good of the listening public, which is why Ofcom exists! My limits would be that all stations with 50% or more music output should be regulated at a minimum of 112 kbps stereo and all below that which is mainly speech can continue on a min of 64 kbps mono.

I would be interested in your views on my thoughts.

Phillip Waterman - Radio listener!