
Advertisement of licences for small-scale radio multiplex services

Round three

Publication date: 25 January 2022

Closing date for applications: 25 April 2022

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1. Overview

1.1 In this document, Ofcom proposes to grant licences to provide small-scale radio multiplex services, and is inviting applications for licences for the following areas:

- Bedford
- Belfast & Lisburn
- Coventry
- Darlington & Bishop Auckland
- Dundee
- East Hull
- Leicester
- Lincoln
- Llandudno & Betws-y-Coed
- Middlesbrough & Redcar
- Milton Keynes
- North Aberdeen
- Nottingham
- Oxford
- Rutland & Stamford
- Shaftesbury & Blandford Forum
- South Aberdeen
- Swansea
- Swindon & Marlborough
- Taunton
- Warminster, Devizes & Trowbridge
- West Hull
- Wetherby & Harrogate
- York
- Yorkshire Coast

1.2 A radio multiplex service is the means by which DAB digital radio stations are broadcast and can provide around ten stereo radio stations (and around 20 stereo services if DAB+ is utilised).

1.3 The advertisement of these licences constitutes Round Three of Ofcom's programme of small-scale DAB licensing, as set out in our statement on small-scale DAB licensing published in April 2020. Note that we intend to award no more than one small-scale radio multiplex licence for each area that we advertise (i.e. we have no plans to award additional small-scale radio multiplex licences for a given area once a small-scale radio multiplex service has been licensed by us to serve that area).

1.4 Small-scale radio multiplex licences are awarded by Ofcom in a competitive process. This means that applications are judged against specified criteria, and Ofcom awards each licence to the applicant which it considers best meets the criteria.

Advertisement of licences for small-scale radio multiplex services: Round three

- 1.5 The closing-date for applications for the small-scale radio multiplex licences listed above is **5pm** on **Monday 25 April 2022**. The non-refundable application fee is £500.
- 1.6 Ofcom is also now inviting applications from potential programme service providers who would like to broadcast a Community Digital Sound Programme (C-DSP) service on a small-scale radio multiplex service for which a licence is being advertised in this document.

2. The licences being advertised

- 2.1 This section provides, for each small-scale radio multiplex licence we are advertising in Round Three, a map specifying the geographical area or locality which the licence is intended to cover, and relevant data for each licence area, including the adult population coverage. The table below explains the data we provide in more detail.

Data	Description
Licence area population	The total adult (aged 15+) population within the area that the advertised multiplex licence is intended to cover (i.e. the population enclosed by the red line on the map). This, and all other population data in these tables, is derived from 2011 Census data.
Size of licence area	The geographical size, in square kilometres, of the area that the advertised multiplex licence is intended to cover (i.e. the area enclosed within the red line on the map). The figure includes areas of sea where applicable.
Reserved C-DSP capacity	<p>The small-scale DAB legislation requires Ofcom to ensure that small-scale radio multiplex licensees reserve broadcast capacity for a minimum of three Community Digital Sound Programme ('C-DSP') services. It also requires us to specify this reservation at the time of advertising a small-scale radio multiplex licence. For each licence we are advertising, Ofcom has determined the number of C-DSP services for which capacity must be reserved. These decisions were taken based on the factors set out in paragraph 6.13 of our licensing small-scale DAB statement.</p> <p>The licensee must ensure that at least 36 capacity units¹ are reserved for each C-DSP service. For example, a capacity reservation for three services means that 108 capacity units (i.e. 3 x 36 capacity units) must be reserved exclusively for use by C-DSP services. This capacity cannot be used by the multiplex licensee for any purpose other than for the carriage of radio services holding a C-DSP licence.</p>
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	This is the name of an existing local radio multiplex service which overlaps with the area to be covered by the small-scale radio multiplex service for which the licence is being advertised. The total adult (aged 15+) population within the existing local radio multiplex service's licensed area (which may

¹ 36 capacity units is equivalent to a DAB+ bitrate of 48 kbit/s at protection level EEP3A.

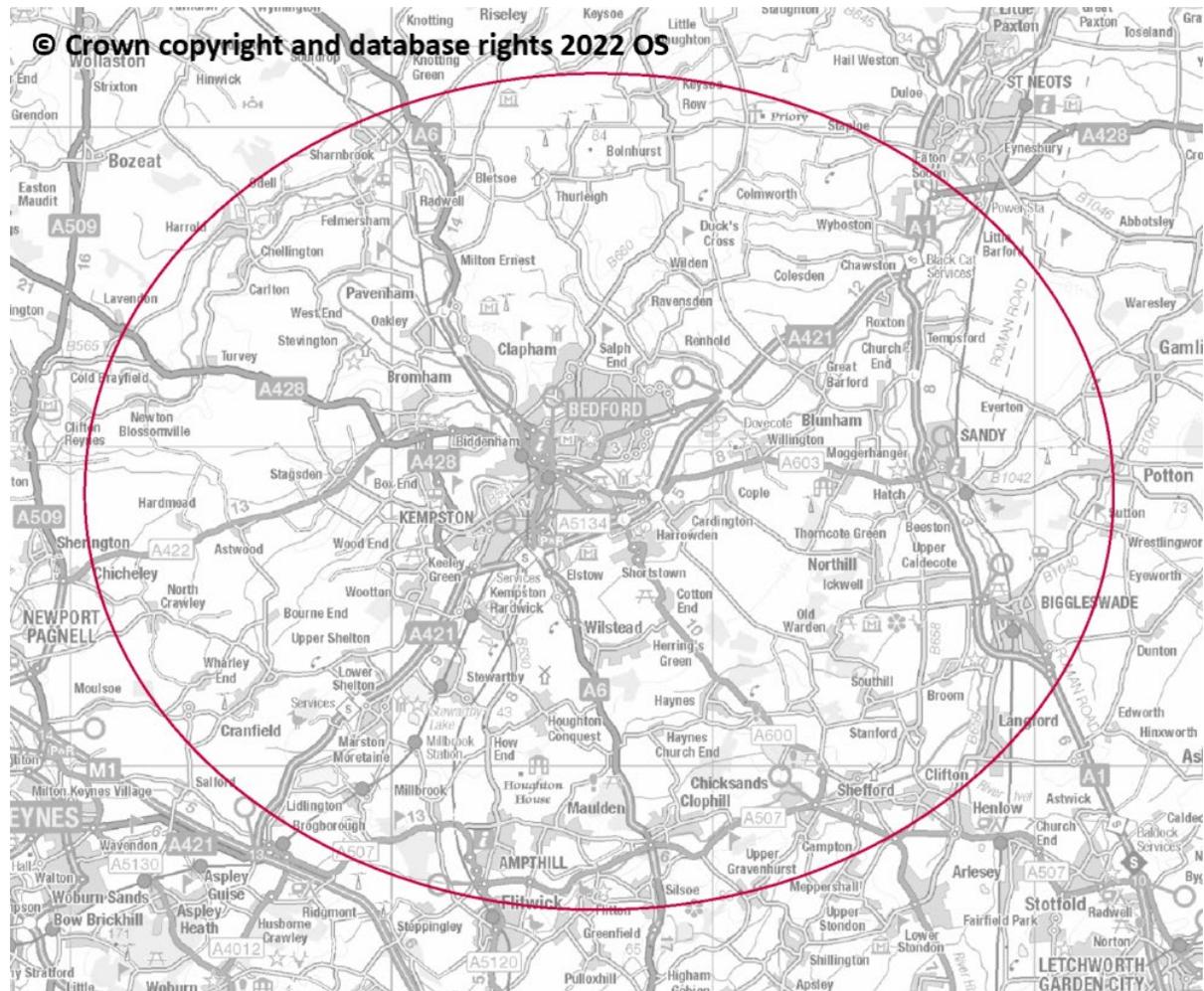
Data	Description
	<p>be larger than the area it serves from its current transmitter network) is noted in brackets. Where more than one existing local radio multiplex service overlaps with the small-scale radio multiplex licence area being advertised, additional rows labelled 'Local DAB service 2 [...]' and 'Local DAB service 3 [...]' are included as appropriate.</p>
<p>Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)</p>	<p>The adult (aged 15+) population falling within the advertised small-scale radio multiplex licence area which also falls within the licensed area of the overlapping local radio multiplex service noted above. This overlapping population is provided as an absolute figure, and also as a percentage of the local radio multiplex service's total licensed area population in brackets.</p> <p>The extent of overlaps between small-scale and local radio multiplex service licensed areas is relevant, as there is a legal requirement to limit such overlaps to no more than 40% of the population in the licensed area of the existing local radio multiplex service.</p>
<p>Proposed frequency block</p>	<p>The nominal transmission frequency which has been allocated to the advertised small-scale radio multiplex licence area, and on which we intend for the service to be provided. Applicants should note that the frequency given here is provisional, reflecting Ofcom's intention at time of advertisement. It may change prior to licence award for spectrum management reasons, but applicants must base their applications on the specified frequency.</p>
<p>Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes</p>	<p>Lists any nearby small-scale radio multiplex services and/or any existing (or proposed) local radio multiplex services which share or may share the nominal transmission frequency block above.</p> <p>A spreadsheet containing links to licence area data and population data for these potential co-block areas is available on the Ofcom website: Supporting technical data and links for Round Three locations. This data is in MapInfo Interchange Format and can be imported into geographic information system (GIS) software packages. The spreadsheet also contains links to standalone maps for all small-scale and local radio multiplex licensed areas.</p> <p>The information on co-block DAB services is relevant given that there are limits on the amount of signal strength that a small-scale radio multiplex service can place into the licensed area of</p>

Data	Description
	<p>another radio multiplex service which uses the same frequency block. These signal strength limits are 38 dBµV/m at 10m height in the case of other small-scale radio multiplex licensed areas, and 29 dBµV/m at 10m height where local radio multiplex services use co-block frequencies. In the tables below each map, local radio multiplex services are identified by the letters 'LRMS' following the area name. Other area names denote other actual or planned small-scale multiplex areas.</p>
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>Further information or constraints that Ofcom believes the applicant for the specific licence area should be aware of. This may include such things as advice on areas of higher-than-expected interference, specific concerns about outgoing interference, and use of certain transmitter sites.</p>
<p>Licence area data</p>	<p>Data files which describe the geographic licence area. This data is in MapInfo Interchange Format and can be imported into a geographic information system (GIS) software package.</p>
<p>Population data</p>	<p>Data files containing the population distribution within the licence area. This data is in MapInfo Interchange Format and can be imported into a geographic information system (GIS) software package.</p>

- 2.2 Each small-scale radio multiplex licence will be granted for a period of seven years from the commencement of broadcasting, with a further five-year renewal period available. Services must be on air within 18 months of the licence being awarded. This is a legal requirement of the small-scale DAB legislation and successful applicants should expect Ofcom to apply it strictly.
- 2.3 At the same time as Ofcom is advertising the Round Three small-scale radio multiplex licences, we are also inviting applications from potential programme service providers who would like to broadcast a Community Digital Sound Programme ('C-DSP') service on any of the small-scale radio multiplex services for which a licence is being advertised in this document. There is no deadline by which an application for a C-DSP licence must be submitted to Ofcom. This means that the window for making an application for a C-DSP licence for a service to be provided on any of the small-scale radio multiplex services for which a licence is being advertised in Round Three is now 'open' for the foreseeable future. Prospective C-DSP licence applicants should also note that the C-DSP licence application process does not require them to align themselves with one or more applicants for the licence for the small-scale DAB radio multiplex service that they wish to broadcast on, and they can, if they so wish, wait until after the small-scale radio multiplex licence has been awarded before submitting a C-DSP licence application. However, we would advise multiplex applicants and potential C-DSP providers to liaise with each other at an early stage as a broadcaster will need a carriage agreement as well as a licence in order to reach its target community.

- 2.4 There is no restriction on an applicant for a small-scale radio multiplex licence also applying for a C-DSP licence to broadcast on that small-scale radio multiplex service (i.e. a small-scale radio multiplex licensee can also broadcast a C-DSP service on its own multiplex). Indeed, one of the matters the legislation requires Ofcom to consider in awarding a small-scale multiplex licence is the desirability of awarding to an applicant who is, or has as a participant, someone proposing to provide a C-DSP service in that locality.
- 2.5 The application forms ([Part A](#) and [Part B](#)) and accompanying [guidance notes](#) for C-DSP applicants and licensees are available on Ofcom's website.
- 2.6 Ofcom reserves the right to alter or correct any part of this Notice at any stage before the closing date for applications. Any additional documents referred to in this Notice may also be amended from time to time. Any such alterations, corrections or supplementary information will be made available on our website.
- 2.7 The information given in this Notice is not an exhaustive account of the statutory and licensing requirements and should not be regarded as a complete and authoritative statement of the law. Nor does any information we issue, whether in this Notice or elsewhere, imply any judgement by us as to commercial prospects for the applications, or that licensed services will be profitable.
- 2.8 Applicants must make their own independent assessment after taking their own professional advice and making such further investigations as they deem necessary on all relevant matters.
- 2.9 We make no representation or warranty, expressly or implied, with respect to information contained in this Notice (together with other documents referred to in this Notice as well as any other information we publish related to matters relevant to this Notice, including such information that we may publish in relation to applications received) or with respect to any written or oral information made or to be made available to any potential applicant or its professional advisors. Any liability therefore is expressly disclaimed, and we do not therefore accept liability for any losses, expenses or damage otherwise suffered or incurred as a result of preparing any applications based on or pursuant to this Notice or otherwise relying on information set out herein, whether or not applications are submitted, and whether or not they are successful.

Bedford



Licence area population: 185,659

Size of licence area (km²): 629

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FIVE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Herts, Beds & Bucks (2,008,567)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 185,659 (9.2%)

Proposed frequency block: 9C

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Rutland & Stamford; Peterborough; Ely & March; Cambridge; Haverhill & Surroundings; Harlow; South Hertfordshire; North Buckinghamshire; Banbury & Bicester; Leamington Spa & Stratford; Rugby & Daventry; Market Harborough

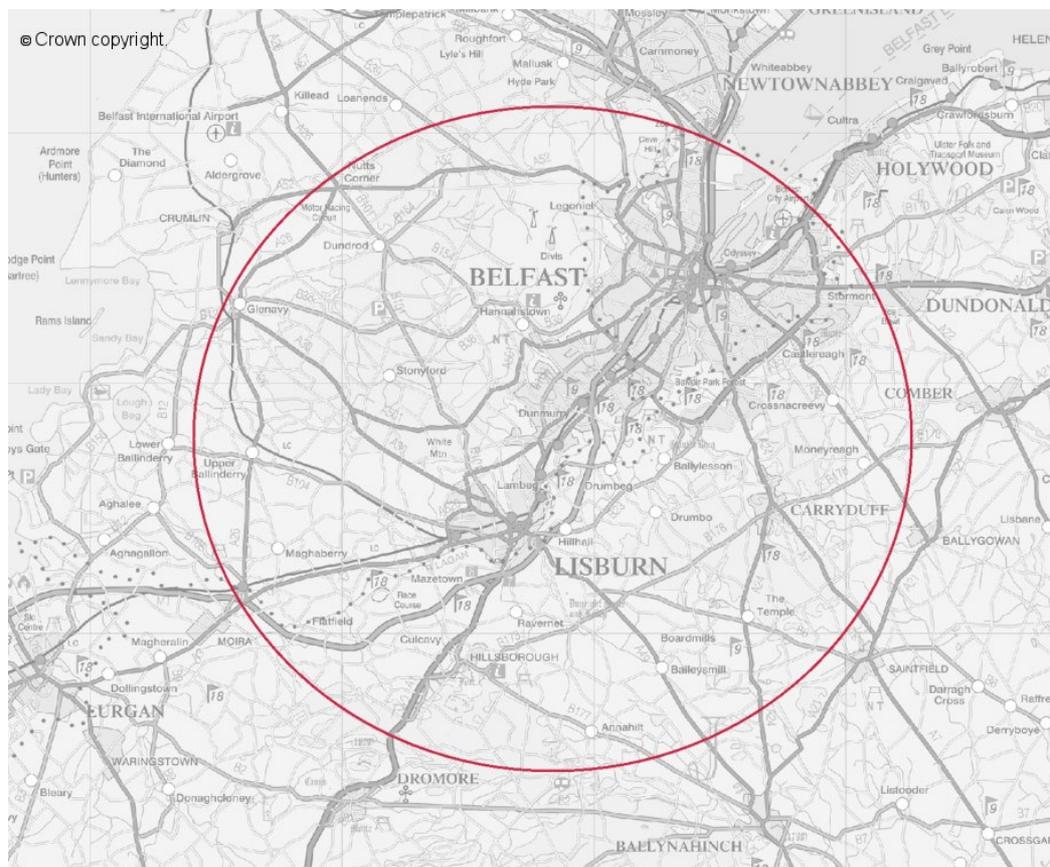
Additional information: Parts of the area being advertised for the Bedford small-scale radio multiplex licence also overlap the licensed area of the Peterborough and Cambridge local DAB multiplex, although there is no population in those overlap areas.

If applicants wish to use the Sandy Heath broadcast transmitter site, Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference criteria.

Within this advertised area, areas between Shelford and Moggerhanger may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's technical policy guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) and [population data](#) for this region.

Belfast & Lisburn



Licence area population: 354,991

Size of licence area (km²): 562

Reserved C-DSP capacity: NINE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Northern Ireland (1,448,895)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 354,991 (24.5%)

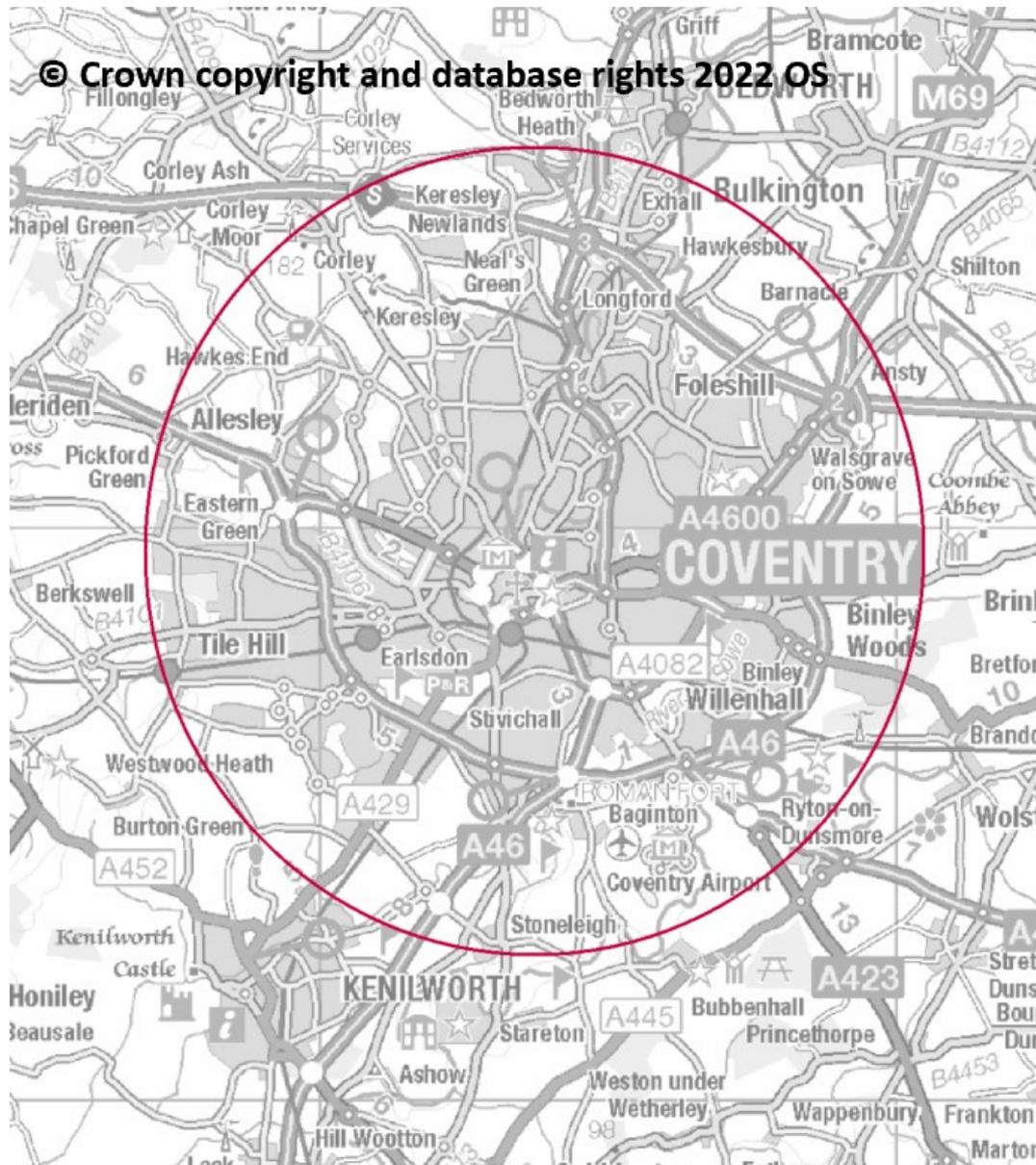
Proposed frequency block: 9A

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Newry; Armagh; Omagh; Derry/Londonderry; Ballymena; Girvan & Cumnock; Workington & Whitehaven; Southport; Anglesey and North Gwynedd

Additional information: If applicants wish to use the Divis or Black Mountain broadcast transmitter sites, Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference criteria.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Coventry



Licence area population: 278,517

Size of licence area (km²): 148

Reserved C-DSP capacity: SIX services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Coventry (749,125)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 278,517 (37.2%)

Proposed frequency block: 9B

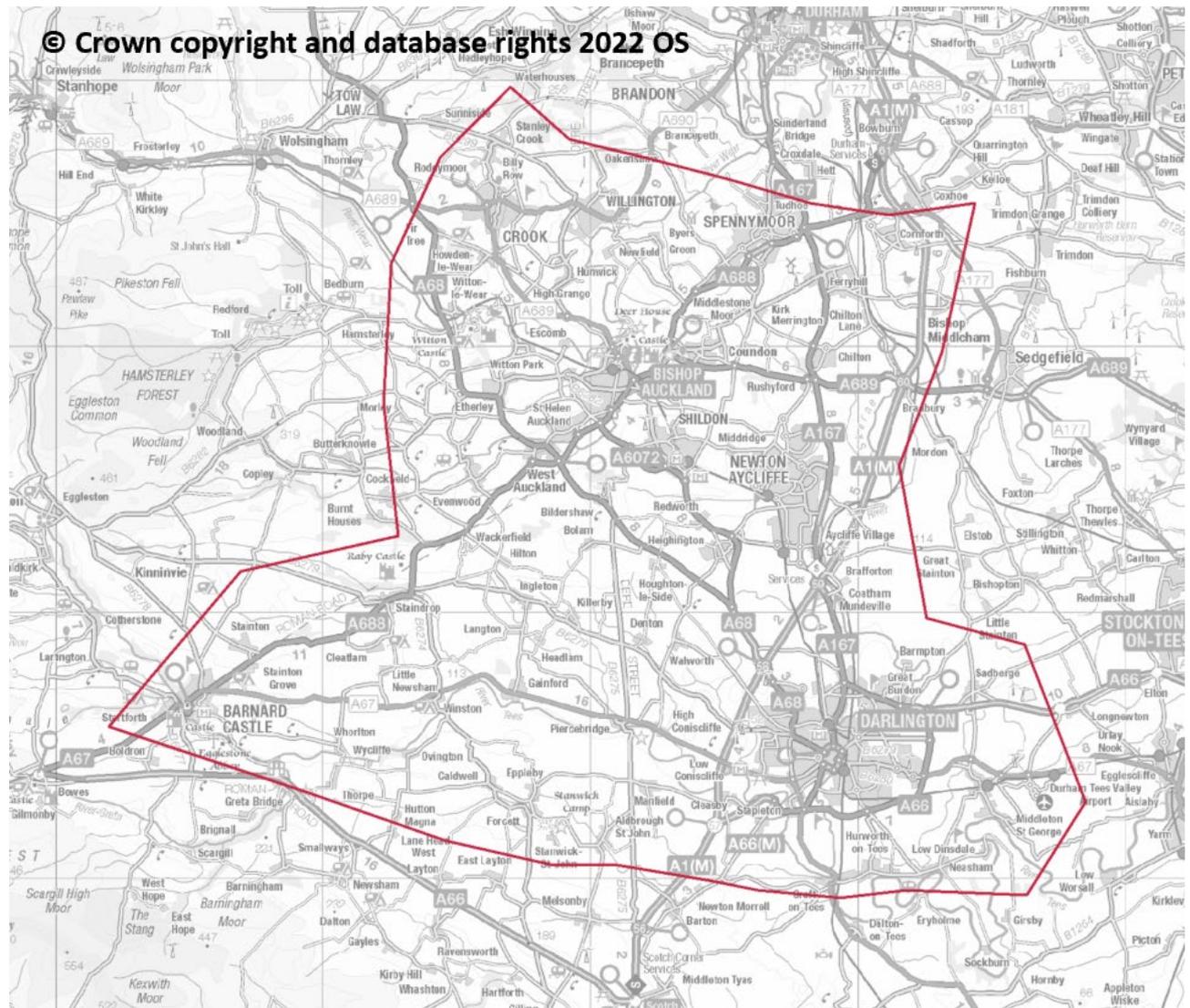
Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Burton-on-Trent & Lichfield; Derby; Erewash; Nottingham; Leicester; Market Harborough; Northampton; Banbury & Bicester; Cheltenham & Tewksbury; Worcester; Bromsgrove, Kidderminster & Redditch; Walsall; Wolverhampton

Additional information: Within this advertised area, areas around Corley and Allesley may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom’s Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance around the A5199 and Illston-on-the-Hill within the Market Harborough small-scale DAB area, the high Cotswolds within the Cheltenham & Shrewsbury small-scale DAB area, particularly Bredon Hill and west of Bishop’s Cleeve as well as areas between West Bromwich and the edge of the Walsall small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Darlington & Bishop Auckland



Licence area population: 210,708

Size of licence area (km²): 646

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FOUR services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Teesside (800,680)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 186,370 (23.3%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Tyne & Wear (1,475,294)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 24,338 (1.6%)

Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population): North Yorkshire (670,391)

Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage): 1,928 (0.3%)

Proposed frequency block: 9B

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Alnwick & Morpeth; Tynemouth & South Shields; Yorkshire Coast; Malton; York; Wetherby & Harrogate; South Craven, Wharfedale & Worth Valley; Kendal & Windemere; Carlisle & Penrith

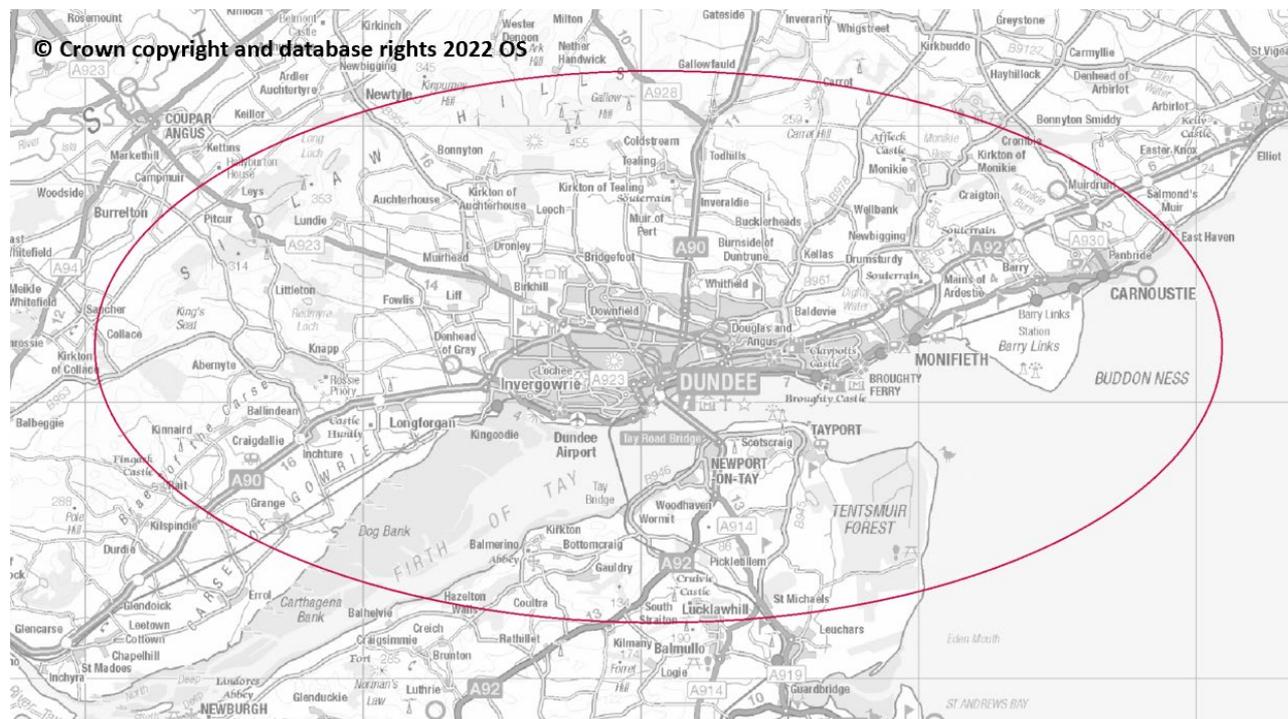
Additional information: If applicants wish to use the Brusselton transmitter site, Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference criteria.

Within this advertised area, areas between Darlington & Stockton-on-Tees and between Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance within the southern parts of the Tynemouth & South Shields small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Dundee



Licence area population: 163,123

Size of licence area (km²): 614

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FOUR services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Tayside (479,208)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 163,123 (34.0%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Edinburgh (1,266,453)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 528 (0.04%)

Proposed frequency block: 8A

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Cumbernauld & Coatbridge; Stirling & Falkirk; Edinburgh; Scottish Borders eastern; South Aberdeen; Pitlochry & Aberfeldy

Additional information: If applicants wish to use the Angus or Forfar transmitter sites, Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference criteria.

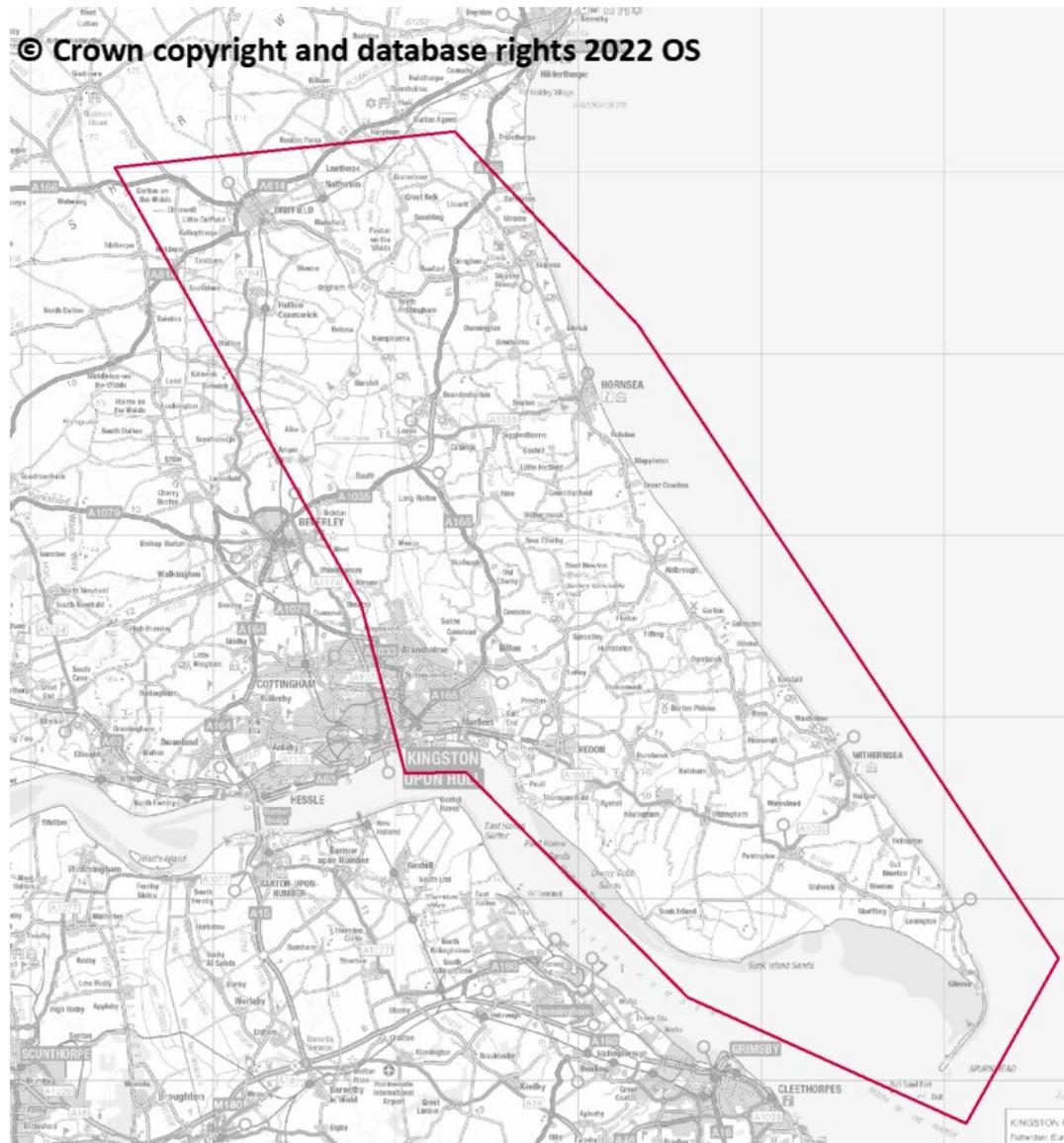
Within this advertised area the high ground of the Sidlaw Hills may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance within the high ground of the Pentland

Hills within the Edinburgh small-scale DAB area and unpopulated elevated parts of the Pitlochry & Aberfeldy small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

East Hull



Licence area population: 168,275

Size of licence area (km²): 1,194

Reserved C-DSP capacity: SIX services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Humberside (777,380)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 168,275 (21.6%)

Proposed frequency block: 7D

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Catterick, Ripon & Thirsk; Middlesbrough & Redcar; North Norfolk; Kings Lynn; Lincoln; Doncaster; Wetherby & Harrogate

Additional information:

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Leicester



Licence area population: 322,079

Size of licence area (km²): 93

Reserved C-DSP capacity: NINE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Leicestershire (837,102)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 322,079 (38.5%)

Proposed frequency block: 9B

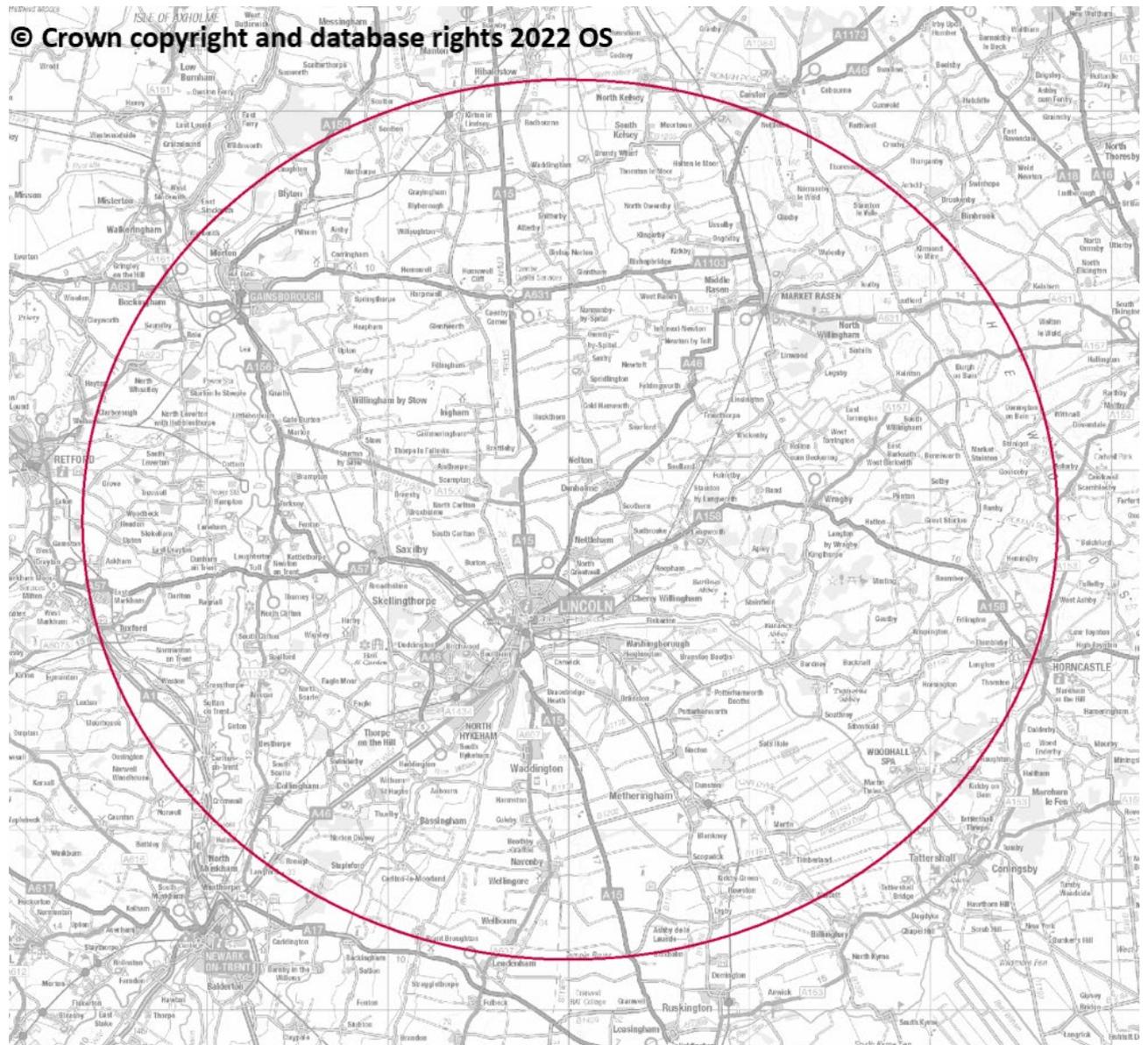
Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Derby; Nottingham; Grantham & Sleaford; Peterborough; Corby & Kettering; Wellingborough; Northampton; Leamington Spa & Stratford; Coventry; North Birmingham; Burton-on-Trent & Lichfield

Additional information: Within this advertised area, areas between Oadby & Thurnby and west of Birstall may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance around Waltham-in-the-Wolds within the Grantham & Sleaford small-scale DAB area and around Corley in the Coventry small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Lincoln



Licence area population: 221,467

Size of licence area (km²): 1,982

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FIVE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Lincolnshire (746,575)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 208,408 (27.9%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Nottinghamshire (1,007,638)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 8,291 (0.8%)

Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population): South Yorkshire (1,416,988)

Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage): 4,768 (0.3%)

Proposed frequency block: 9C

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: York; East Hull; Kings Lynn; Peterborough; Rutland & Stamford; Loughborough & Coalville; Erewash; Chesterfield; Sheffield & Rotherham; Glossop & Buxton; Wakefield, Castleford & Dewsbury; Leeds; Wetherby & Harrogate

Additional information: If applicants wish to use the Belmont broadcast transmitter sites Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference criteria.

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance in the Charnwood Forest area of the Loughborough & Coalville small-scale DAB area and the eastern edge of the Pennine Hills within the Chesterfield and Sheffield & Rotherham small-scale DAB areas. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

Within this advertised area, the north-south ridge of high ground (approximately defined by the B1398 and A607) may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Llandudno & Betws-y-Coed



Licence area population: 88,640

Size of licence area (km²): 1,336

Reserved C-DSP capacity: THREE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): North-West Wales (362,319)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 88,640 (24.5%)

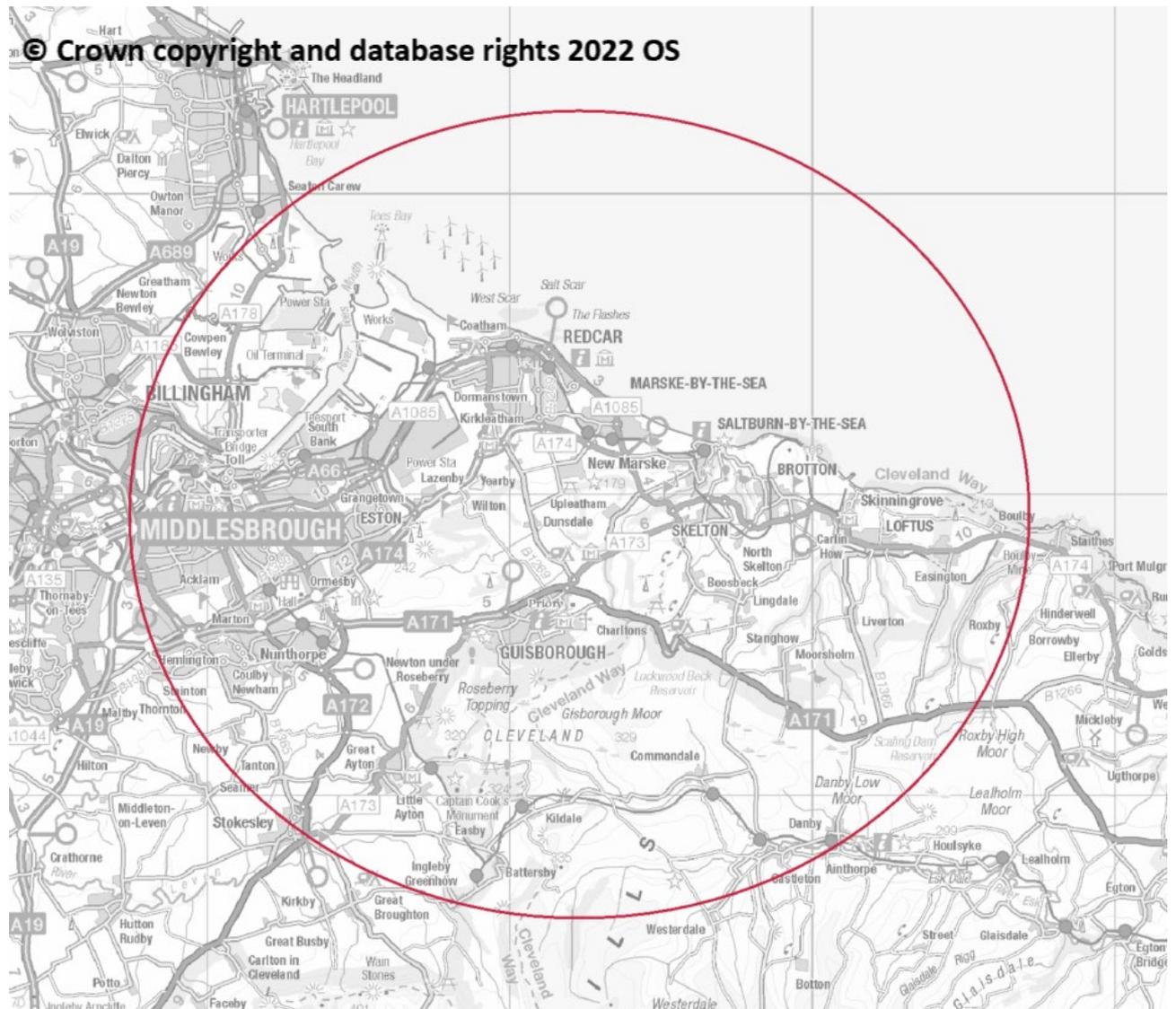
Proposed frequency block: 7D

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Barrow-in-Furness; Blackpool; Preston; Bolton & Bury; Warrington, Widnes & Runcorn; Chester & Ellesmere Port; Wrexham; South Powys; Aberystwyth; Ards Peninsula

Additional information: Within this advertised area, the high ground of Snowdonia and The Cambrian Mountains may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region

Middlesbrough & Redcar



Licence area population: 225,436

Size of licence area (km²): 610

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FIVE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Teesside (800,680)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 225,436 (28.2%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): North Yorkshire (670,391)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 7,015 (1.0%)

Proposed frequency block: 8A

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Newcastle & Gateshead; Tynemouth & South Shields; Malton; Wetherby & Harrogate; Kendal & Windemere; Carlisle & Penrith

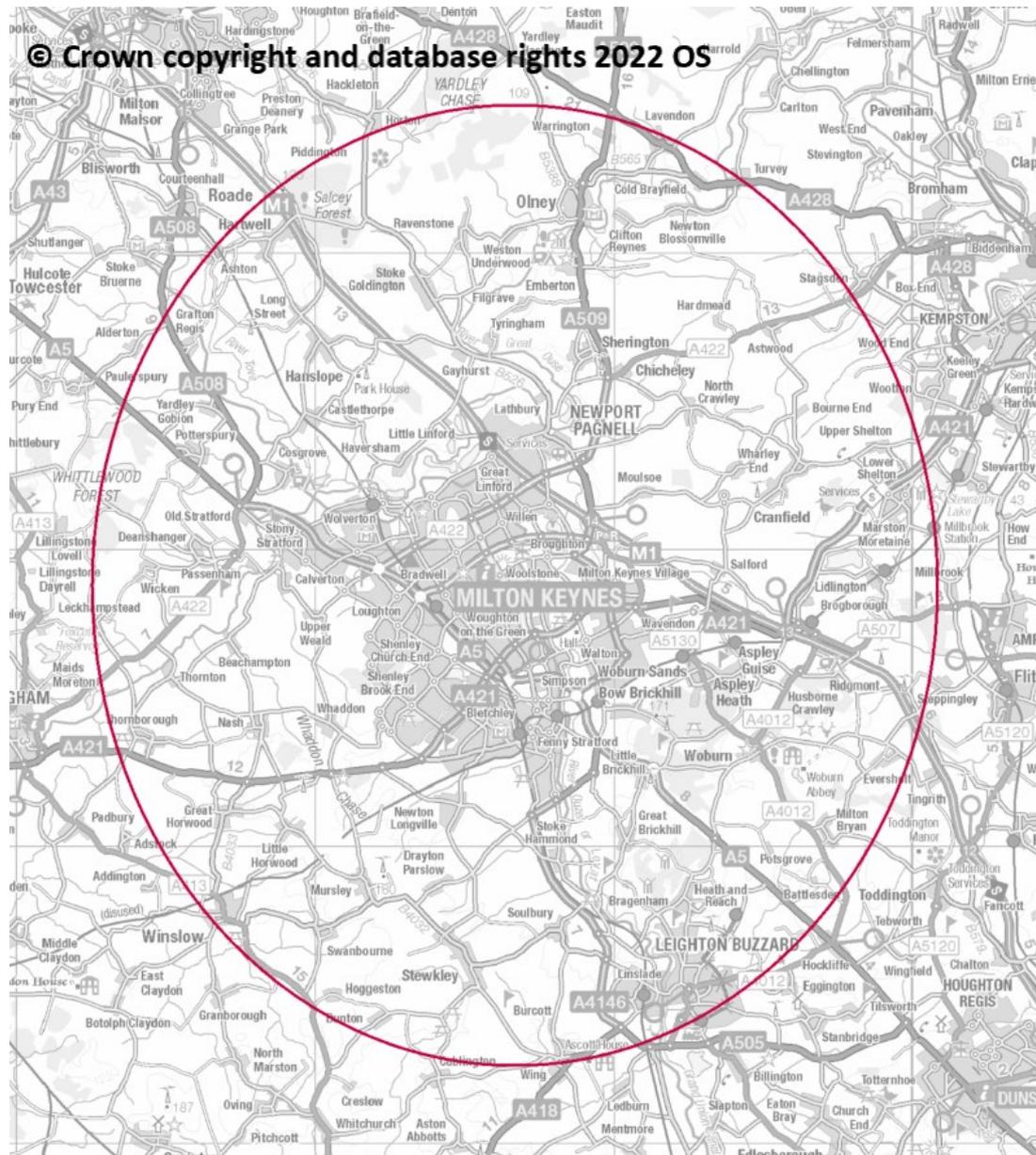
Additional information: If applicants wish to use the Bilsdale or Eston Nab broadcast transmitter sites, Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference and coverage overlap criteria.

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance in the Whitburn and Cleadon Hill area of the Tynemouth & South Shields small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

Within this advertised area, the high ground of Eston Moor and Guisborough Moor may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Milton Keynes



Licence area population: 260,397

Size of licence area (km²): 695

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FIVE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Herts, Beds and Bucks (2,008,567)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 251,032 (12.5%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Northamptonshire (531,211)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 9,365 (1.8%)

Proposed frequency block: 9B

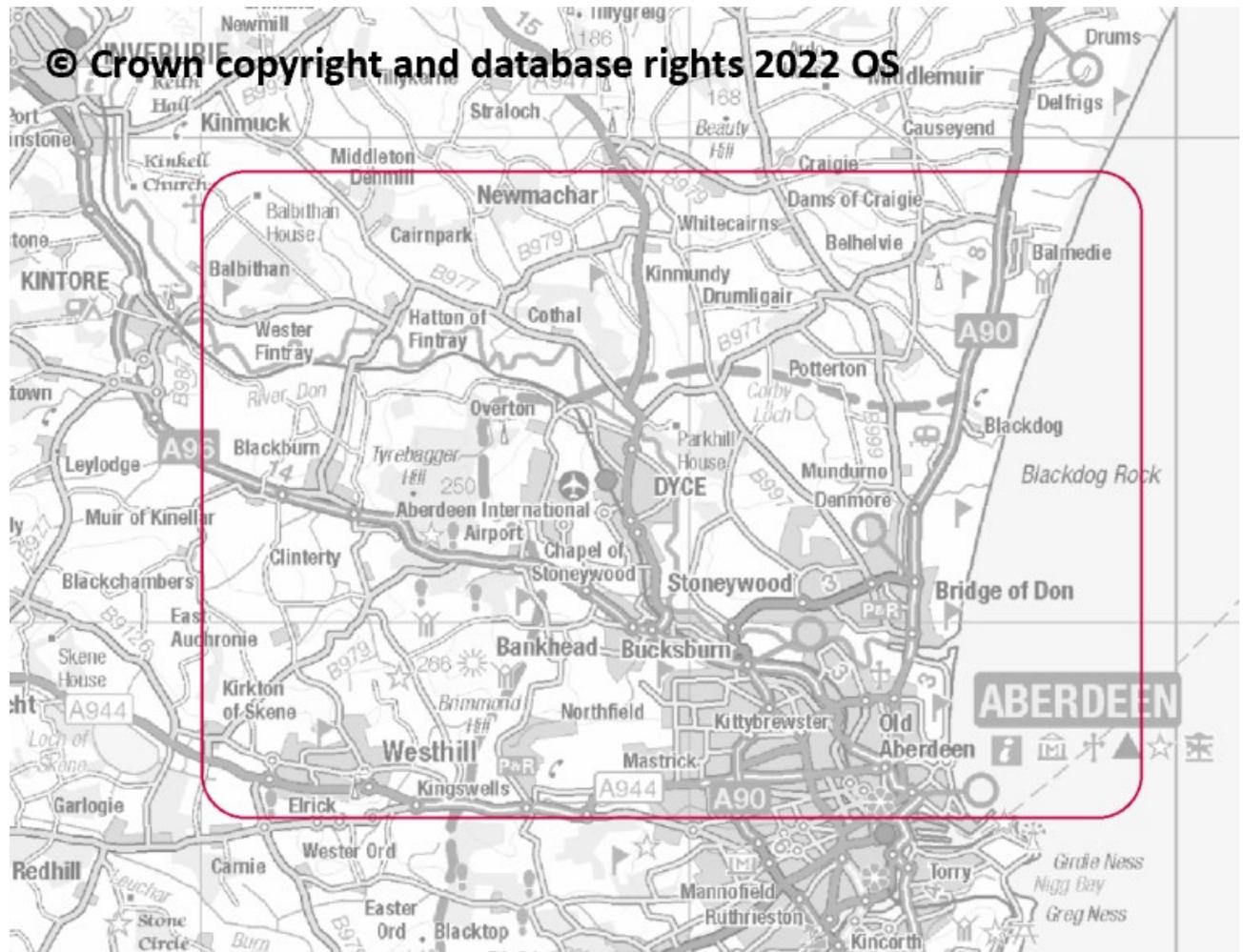
Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Leicester; Corby & Kettering; Cambridge; South Hertfordshire; South Buckinghamshire; Berkshire North & South Oxfordshire; Witney; Leamington Spa & Stratford-upon-Avon; Coventry

Additional information: As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance within the northern edges of the South Buckinghamshire and South Hertfordshire small-scale DAB areas on the Chiltern Hills. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

Within this advertised area, the high ground south and west of Salcey Forest and north-west of Cranfield may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

North Aberdeen



Licence area population: 138,821

Size of licence area (km²): 255

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FOUR services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Aberdeen (383,993)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 138,821 (36.2%)

Proposed frequency block: 9C

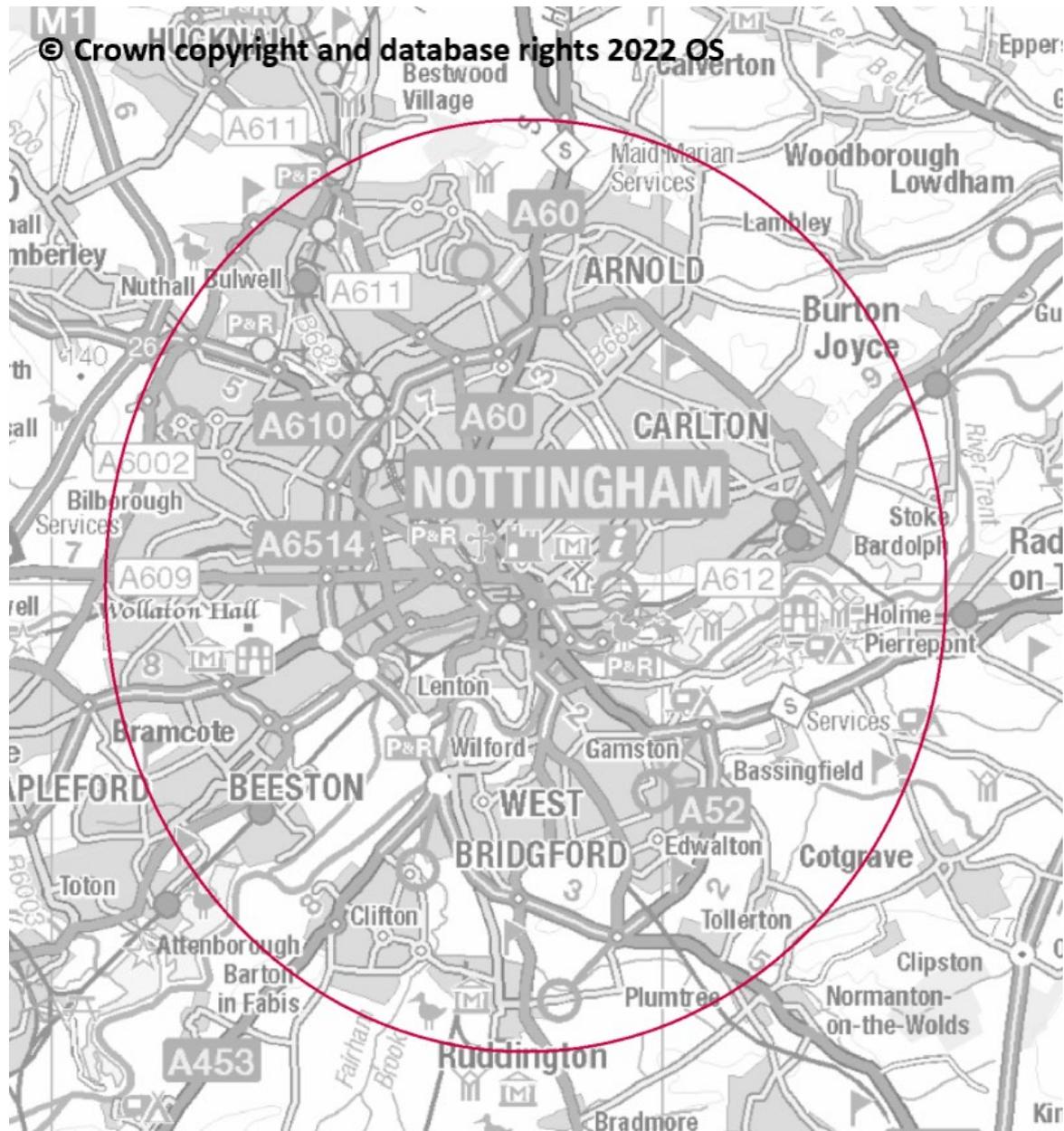
Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Scottish Borders – eastern; East Edinburgh & South Forth Coast; East Fife; Dundee; Pitlochry & Aberfeldy

Additional information: The City of Aberdeen has a population of around 200,000 adults. This is around 52% of the total Aberdeen Local Radio Multiplex Service population. Any coverage outside of the city will be additional to the 200,000.

No small-scale DAB multiplex can serve greater than 40% of a local DAB licence population. Applicants must design their transmission network to adhere to this requirement.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Nottingham



Licence area population: 394,795

Size of licence area (km²): 162

Reserved C-DSP capacity: SIX services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Nottinghamshire (1,007,638)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 394,795 (39.2%)

Proposed frequency block: 7D

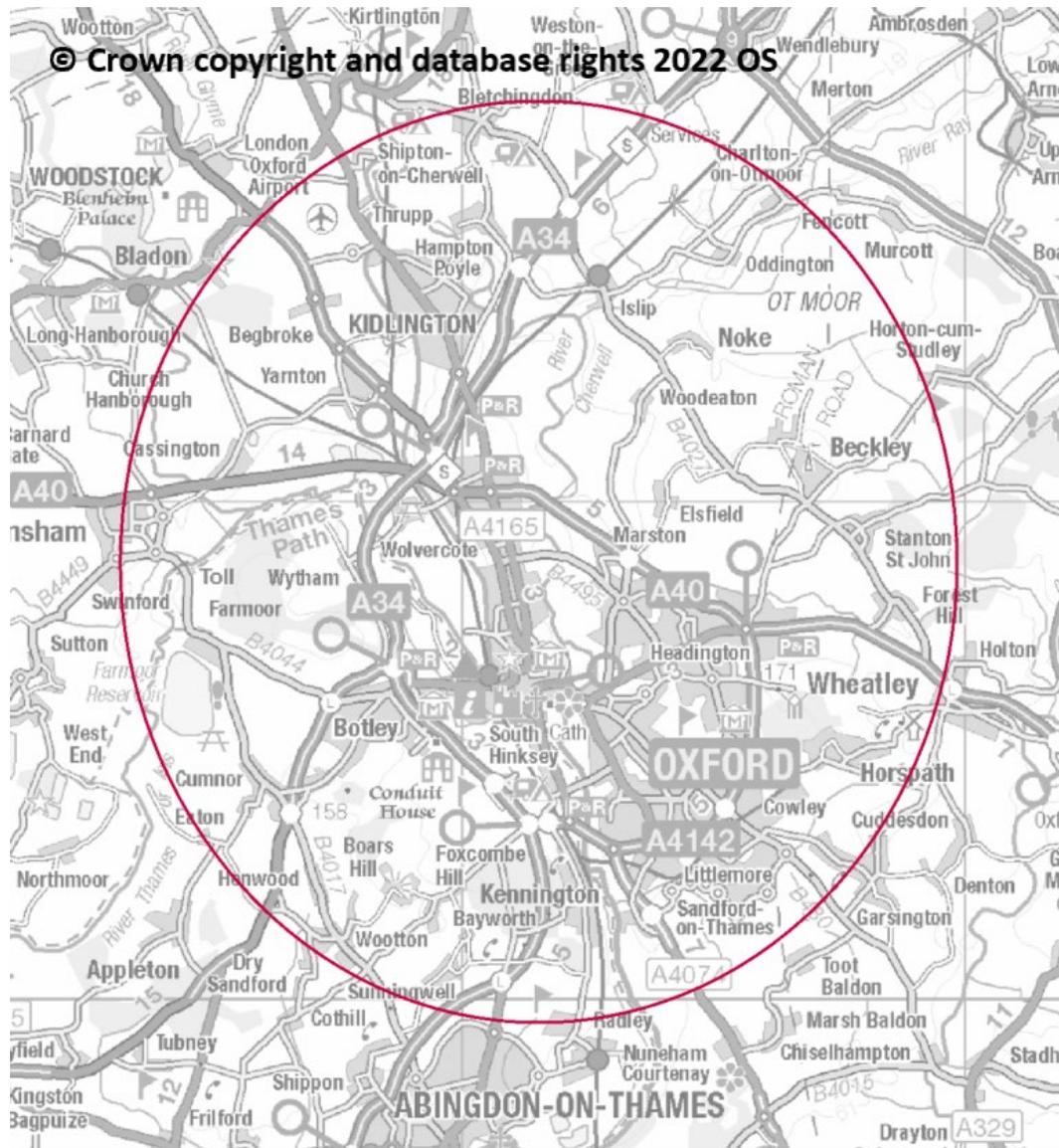
Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Sheffield & Rotherham; Barnsley; Doncaster; Scunthorpe; Grimsby; Boston, Spalding & Skegness; Rutland & Stamford; Nuneaton & Hinckley; North Birmingham; Walsall; Stoke-on-Trent; Congleton & Leek; Glossop & Buxton

Additional information: Within this advertised area, areas around Mapperley Ridge may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance around the elevated south-west corner of the Sheffield & Rotherham small-scale DAB area and around Tilton-on-the-Hill in the Rutland & Stamford small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Oxford



Licence area population: 170,349

Size of licence area (km²): 236

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FIVE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Oxfordshire (531,992)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 170,349 (32.0%)

Proposed frequency block: 8B

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Leamington Spa & Stratford-upon-Avon; Northampton; South Buckinghamshire; Reading; Basingstoke; Newbury; Swindon & Marlborough; Stroud; Cheltenham & Tewkesbury

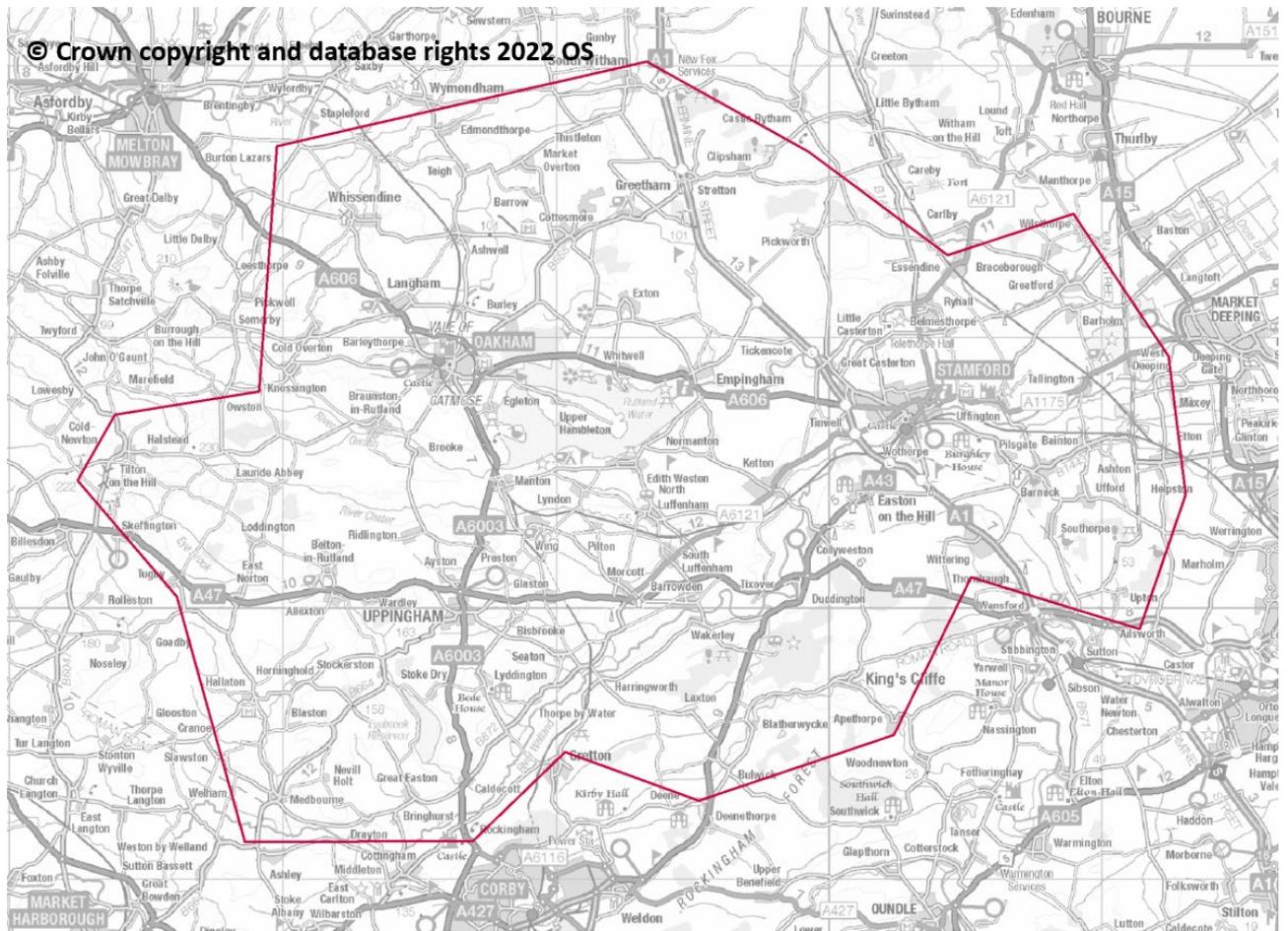
Additional information: If applicants wish to use the Oxford transmitter mast at Beckley or the transmitter site at Boars Hill, Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference criteria.

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance within the northern edges of the South Buckinghamshire and Newbury small-scale DAB areas on the Chiltern Hills and on the Ridgeway respectively. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

Within this advertised area, the high ground west of the A34, west of Wheatley and around Beckley may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Rutland & Stamford



Licence area population: 62,414

Size of licence area (km²): 769

Reserved C-DSP capacity: THREE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Peterborough (442,822)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 30,079 (6.8%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Leicestershire (837,102)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 34,728 (4.1%)

Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population): Lincolnshire (746,575)

Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage): 1,255 (0.2%)

Local DAB service 4 (and licence area population): Northamptonshire (531,211)

Local DAB service 4 population overlap (and percentage): 654 (0.1%)

Proposed frequency block: 9C

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Newark-on-Trent; Lincoln; Kings Lynn; Bury St Edmunds, Thetford & Mildenhall; Cambridge; Biggleswade & North Hertford; Bedford; Northampton; Rugby & Daventry; Nuneaton & Hinckley; Loughborough & Coalville; Nottingham

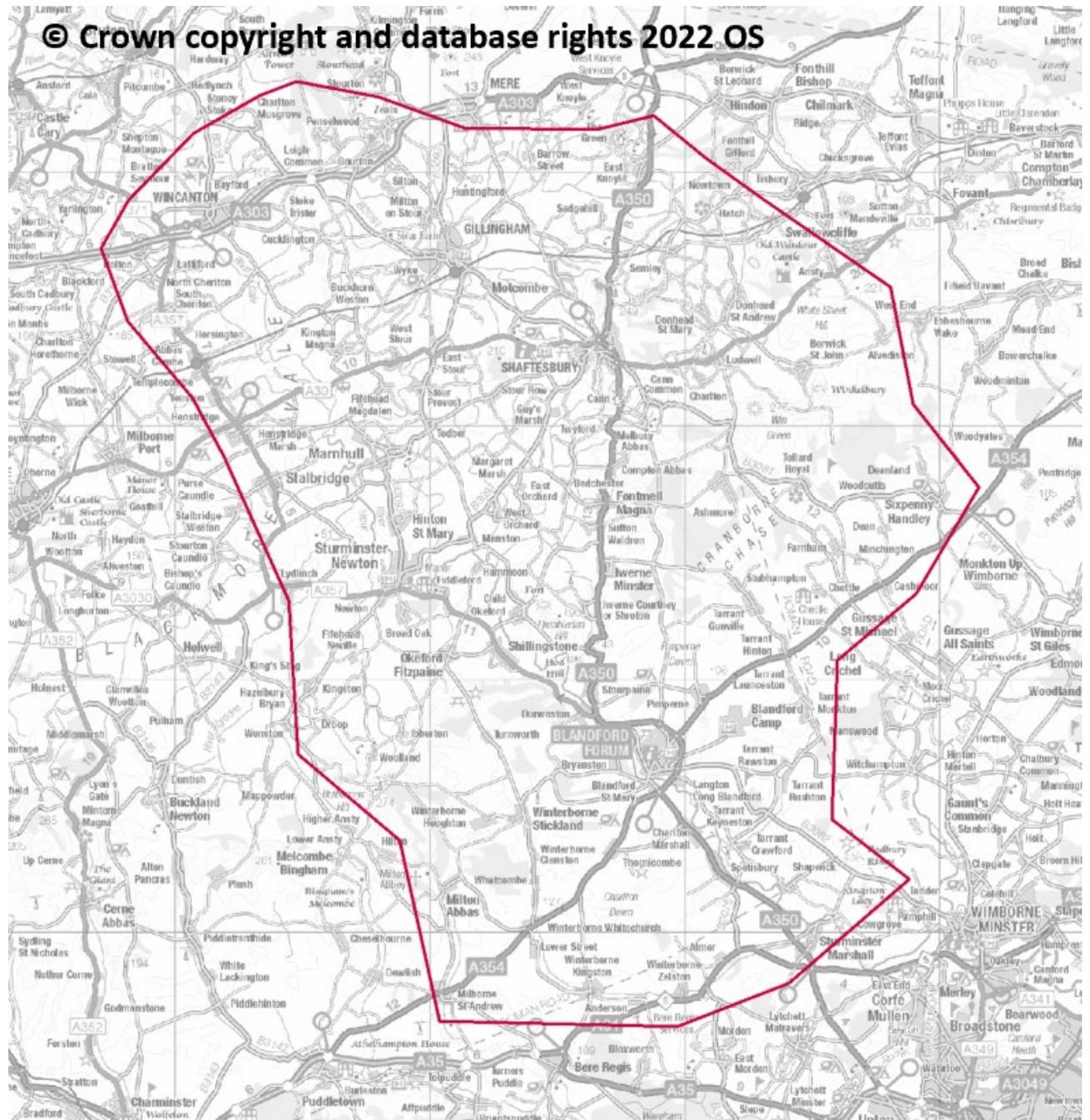
Additional information: If applicants wish to use the Waltham or Billesdon broadcast transmitter sites, Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference and coverage overlap criteria.

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance at the eastern edge of the Loughborough & Coalville small-scale DAB area on high ground. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

Within this advertised area, the high ground around Tilton-on-the-Hill may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Shaftesbury & Blandford Forum



Licence area population: 70,674

Size of licence area (km²): 831

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FIVE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Bournemouth & Dorset (653,110)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 57,643 (8.8%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Somerset (522,893)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 9,154 (1.8%)

Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population): Swindon & Wiltshire (614,196)

Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage): 3,877 (0.6%)

Proposed frequency block: 9B

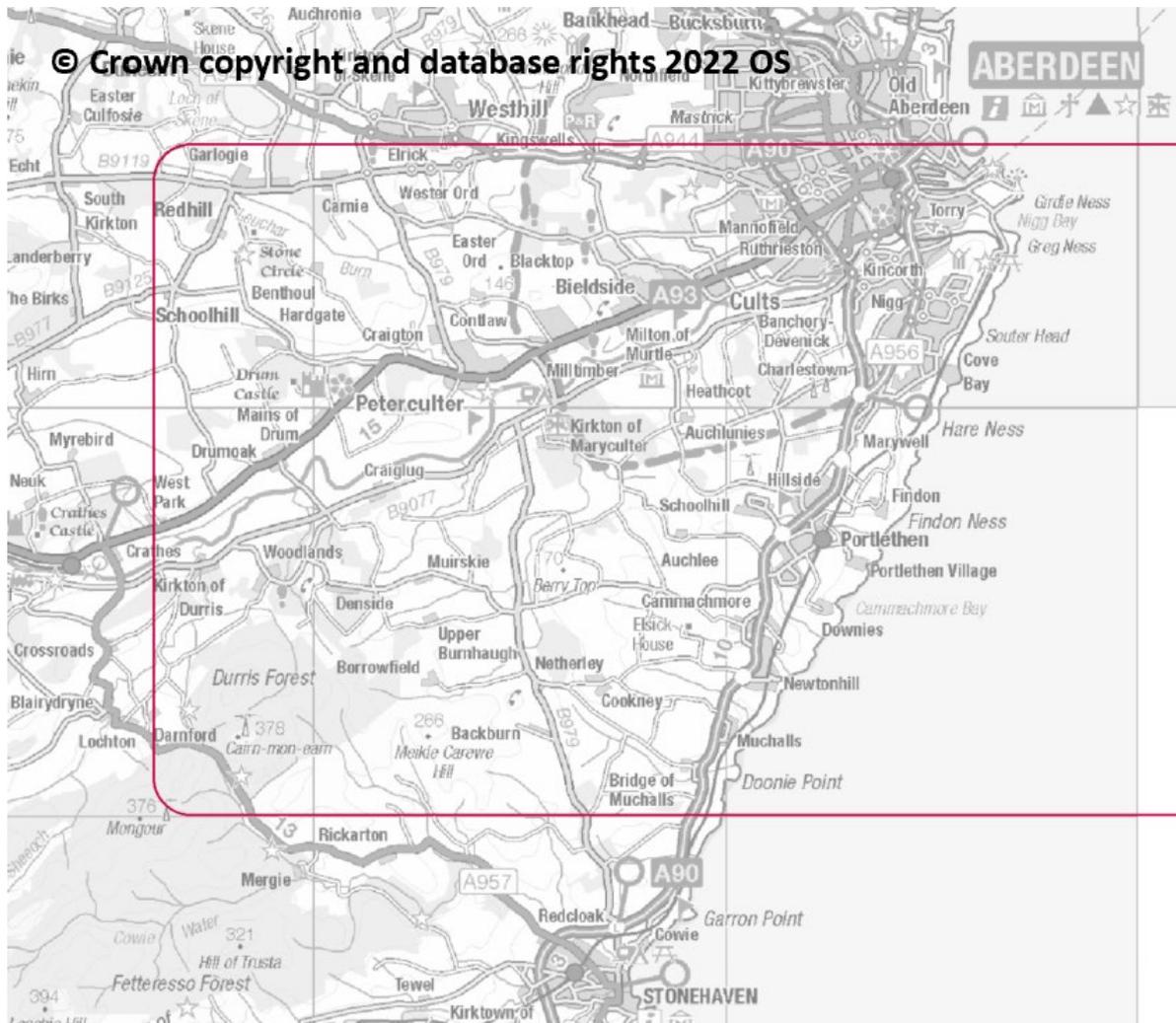
Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Chippenham & Malmesbury; Swindon & Marlborough; Newbury; Basingstoke; Winchester; Southampton; East Devon; Bridgewater; East Bristol; Mangotsfield & Keynsham

Additional information: As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance within the northern western edge of the Southampton small-scale DAB area, the Quantock Hills in the Bridgewater area as well as areas to the north of Chard and the Blackdown Hills in the East Devon small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

Within this advertised area, levels of interference in some of the higher parts of Shaftesbury, on the high ground of Cranbourne Chase and between Bulbarrow Hill & Ibberton may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

South Aberdeen



Licence area population: 94,205

Size of licence area (km²): 436

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FOUR services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Aberdeen (383,993)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 94,205 (24.5%)

Proposed frequency block: 7D

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Scottish Borders – eastern; East Edinburgh & South Forth Coast; Glenrothes & Kirkcaldy; Perth

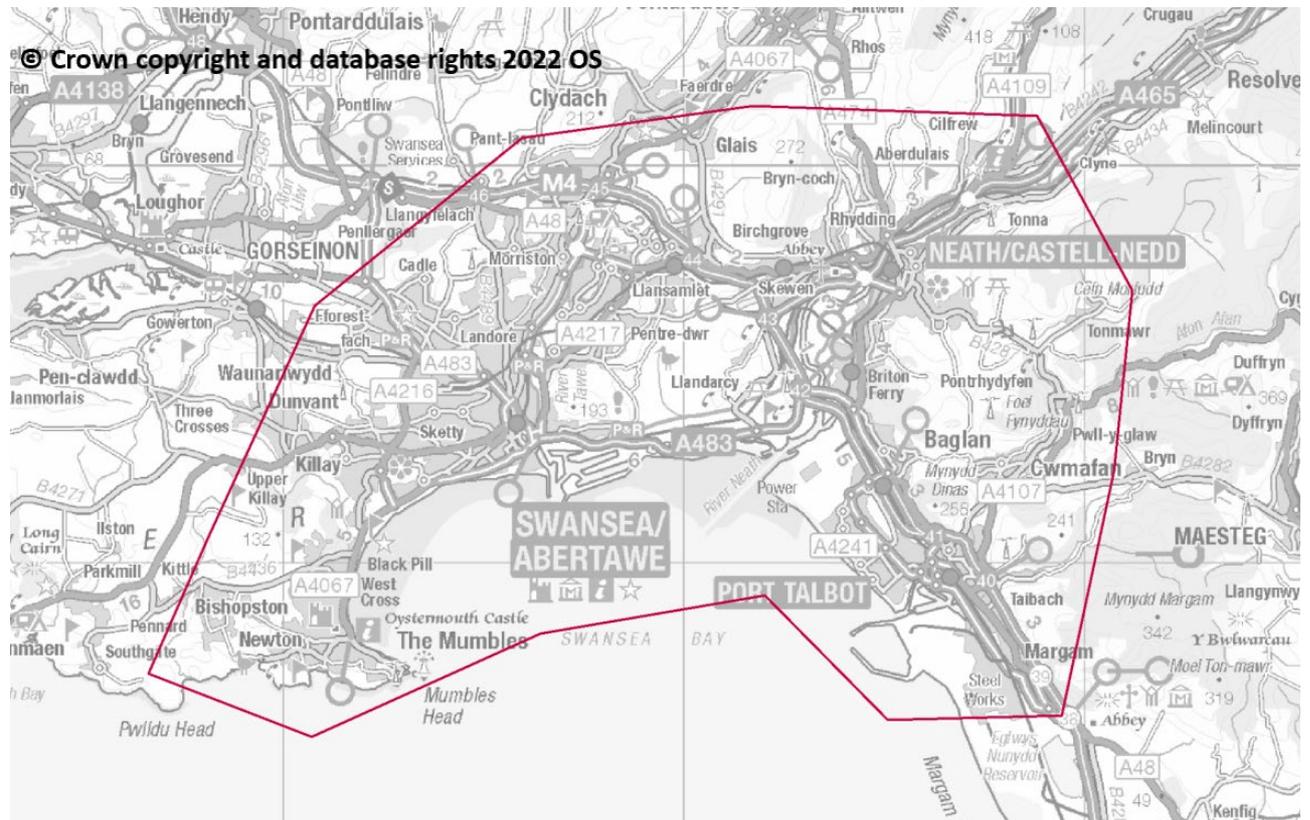
Additional information: The City of Aberdeen has a population of around 200,000 adults. This is around 52% of the total Aberdeen Local Radio Multiplex Service population. Any coverage outside of the city will be additional to the 200,000.

No small-scale DAB multiplex can serve greater than 40% of a local DAB licence population. Applicants must design their transmission network to adhere to this requirement.

Ofcom predictions indicate that use of the existing Durriss broadcasting site will require a low power, low antenna height and/or antenna restrictions to comply with outgoing interference restrictions.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Swansea



Licence area population: 230,805

Size of licence area (km²): 280

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FOUR services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Swansea (596,014)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 230,805 (38.7%)

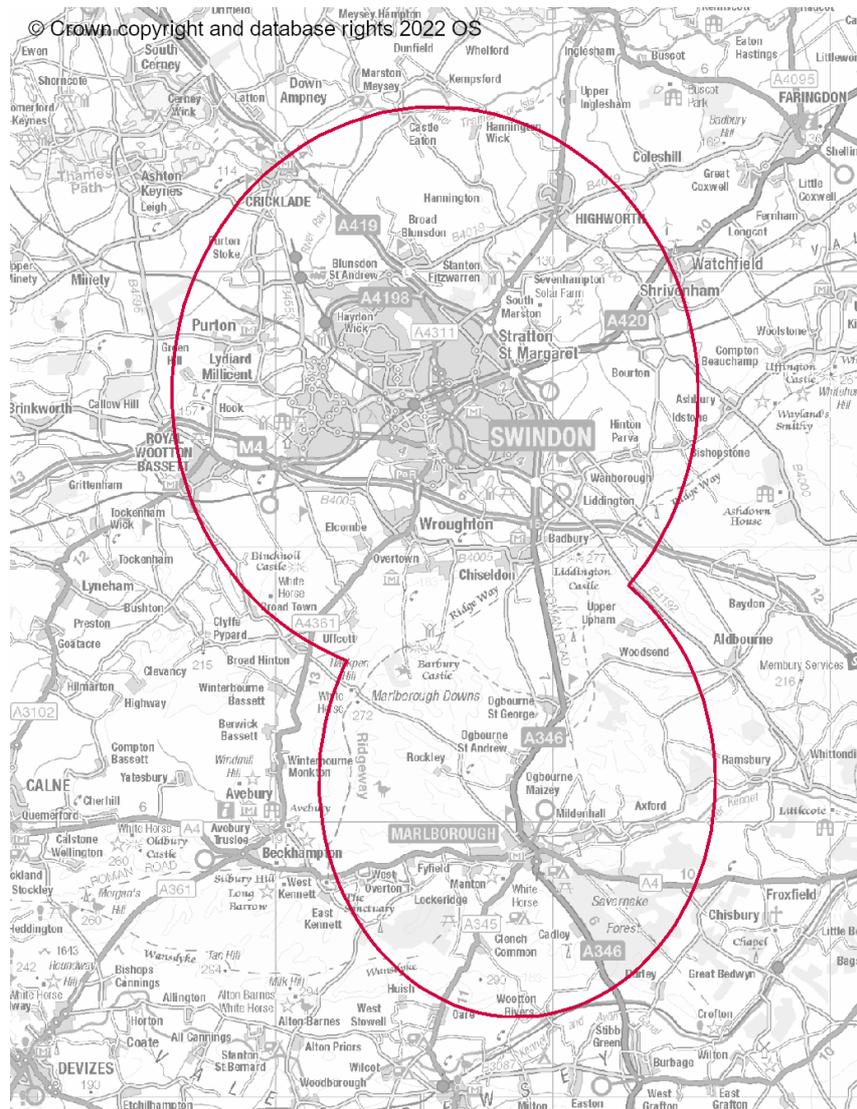
Proposed frequency block: 7D

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: North Pembrokeshire; Aberystwyth; South Powys; Newport & Chepstow; Clevedon, Avonmouth & Filton; Weston-Super-Mare; Taunton; Tiverton; East Cornwall

Additional information:

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Swindon & Marlborough



Licence area population: 197,049

Size of licence area (km²): 469

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FOUR services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Swindon, South & West Wiltshire (614,196)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 197,049 (32.1%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Oxfordshire (531,992)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 2,198 (0.4%)

Proposed frequency block: 8B

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Gloucester; Cheltenham & Tewkesbury; Banbury & Bicester; Oxford; Reading; Basingstoke; Winchester; Southampton; Ringwood; Verwood & Fordingbridge; Shaftesbury & Blandford Forum; North Somerset; East Bristol; Mangotsfield & Keynsham

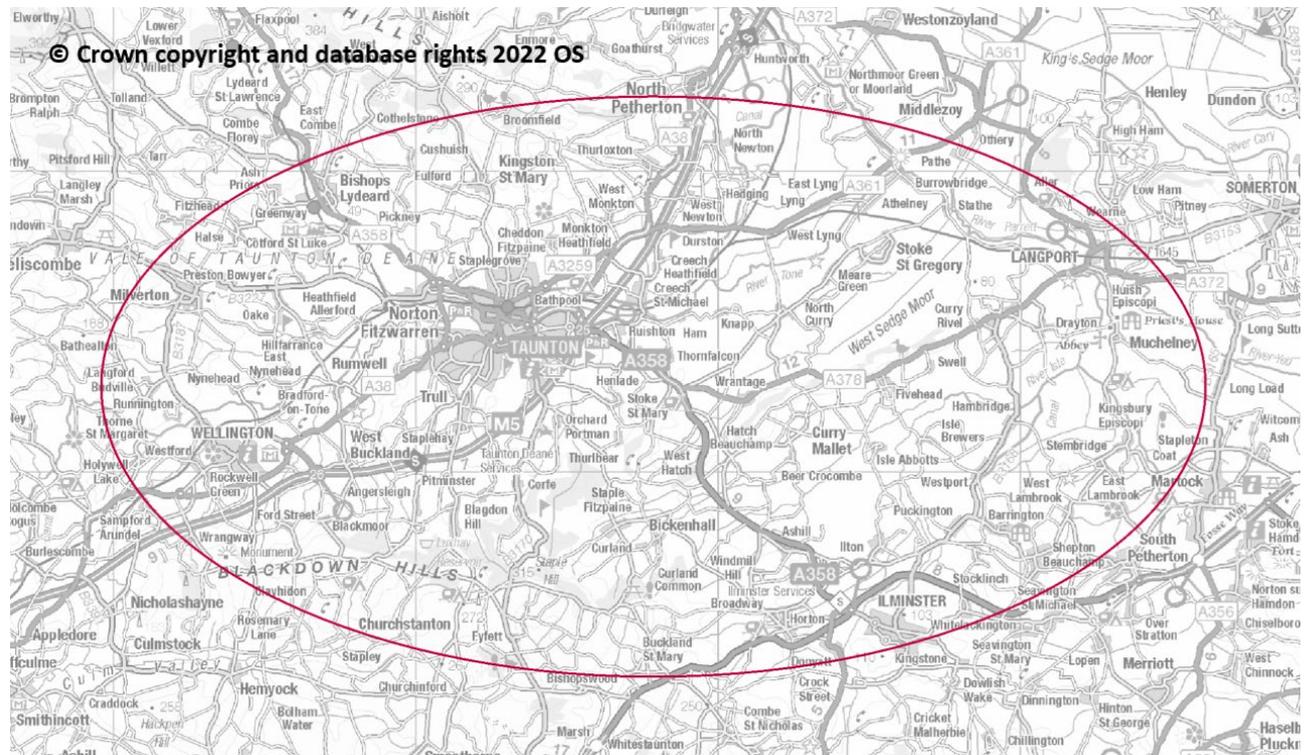
Additional information: Ofcom predictions indicate that use of the existing Blunsdon and Brunel Tower broadcasting sites will require low power, low height and/or antenna restrictions to comply with outgoing interference restrictions.

Within this advertised area, the high ground of the Cotswolds may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

Note that the advertised area differs from that which we included in our 2020 Statement and has been expanded to include Marlborough in response to stakeholder feedback.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Taunton



Licence area population: 103,546

Size of licence area (km²): 536

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FIVE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Somerset (522,893)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 103,546 (19.8%)

Proposed frequency block: 8A

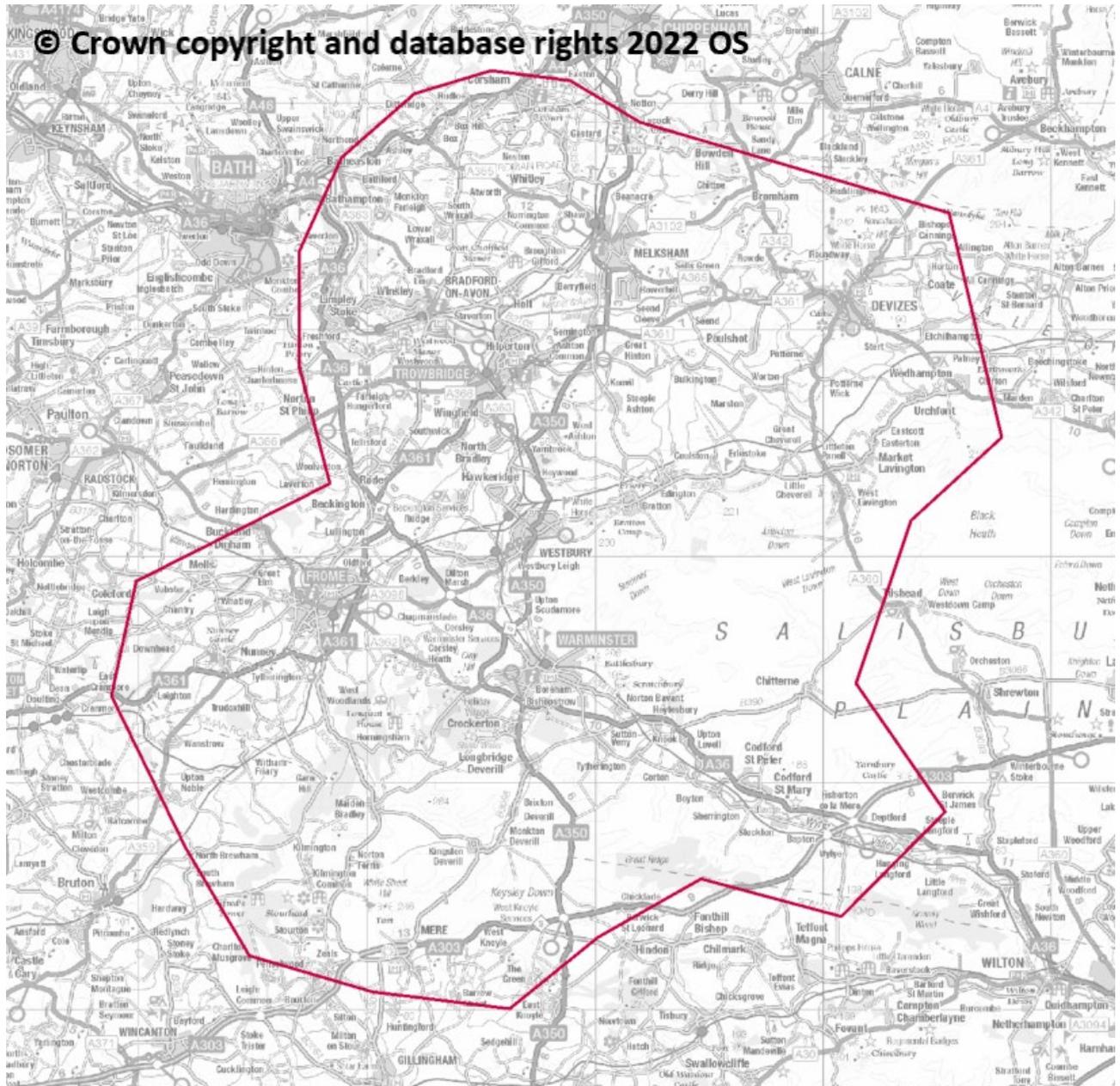
Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Bridgend; Newport & Chepstow; Bath & Midsomer Norton; Salisbury; Weymouth, Dorchester & Bridport; Torbay; Barnstaple & Bideford

Additional information: As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance within the southern edge of the Bath & Midsomer Norton small-scale DAB area on the Mendip Hills and on the elevated northern edge of the Weymouth, Dorchester & Bridport small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

Within this advertised area, the high ground of the Blackdown Hills and the southern Quantocks may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Warminster, Devizes & Trowbridge



Licence area population: 184,083

Size of licence area (km²): 1,088

Reserved C-DSP capacity: SIX services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Bristol & Bath (905,061)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 2,787 (0.3%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Somerset (522,893)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 27,619 (5.3%)

Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population): Swindon, South & West Wiltshire (614,196)

Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage): 153,677 (25.0%)

Proposed frequency block: 9C

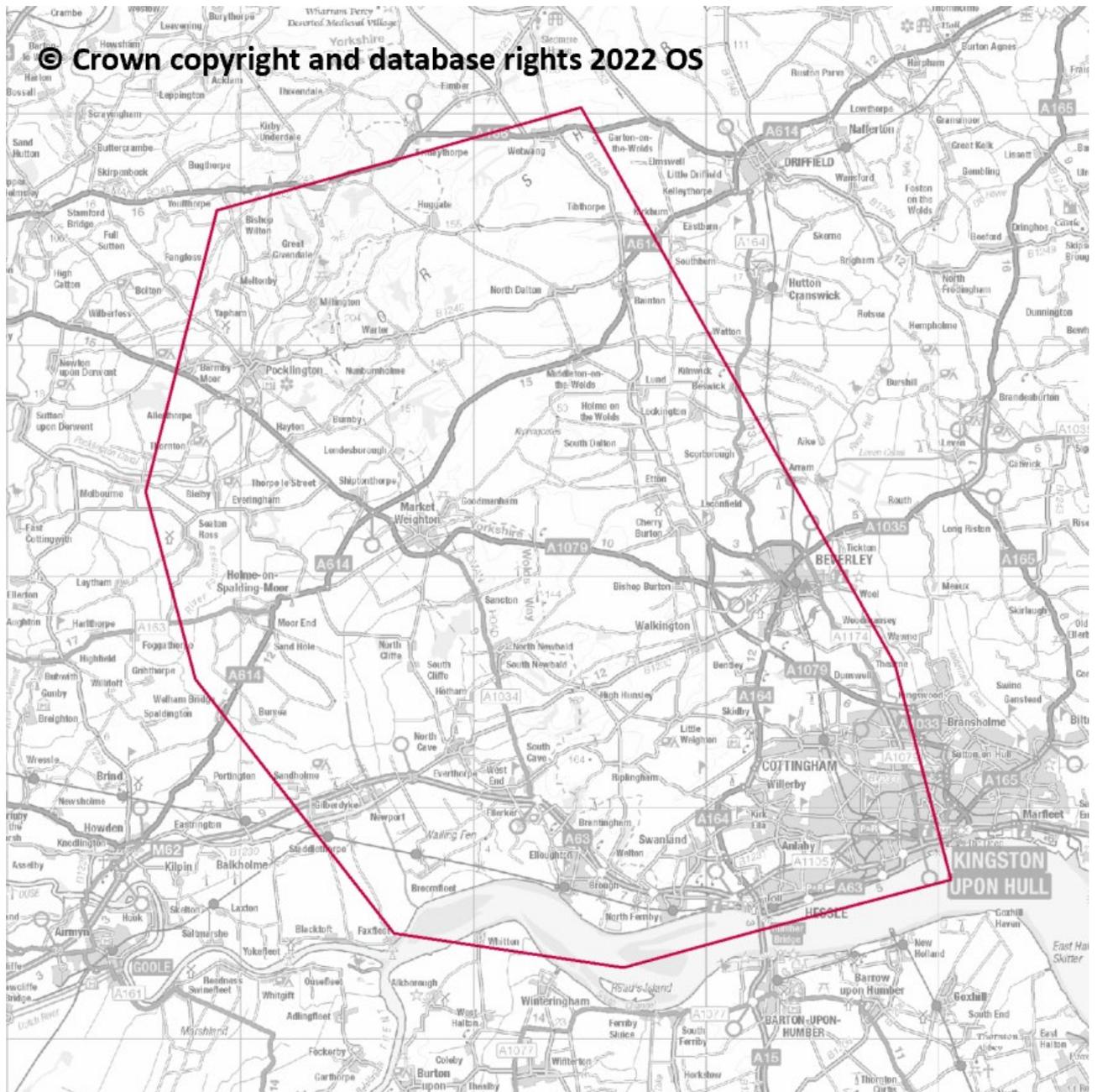
Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Gloucester; Witney; Newbury; Winchester; Southampton; Ringwood, Verwood & Fordingbridge; Weymouth, Dorchester & Bridport; Taunton; Bridgewater; Weston-Super-Mare; Monmouth

Additional information: As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance within the northern part of the Weymouth, Dorchester & Bridport small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

Within this advertised area, the high ground of Salisbury Plain around Kilmington & Stourton may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

West Hull



Licence area population: 246,271

Size of licence area (km²): 856

Reserved C-DSP capacity: SIX services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): Humberside (777,380)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 246,271 (31.7%)

Proposed frequency block: 9B

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Catterick, Ripon & Thirsk; Middlesbrough & Redcar; Boston, Spalding & Skegness; Newark-on-Trent; Mansfield & Worksop; Sheffield & Rotherham; Barnsley; Huddersfield; Leeds; South Craven, Wharfedale & Worth Valley

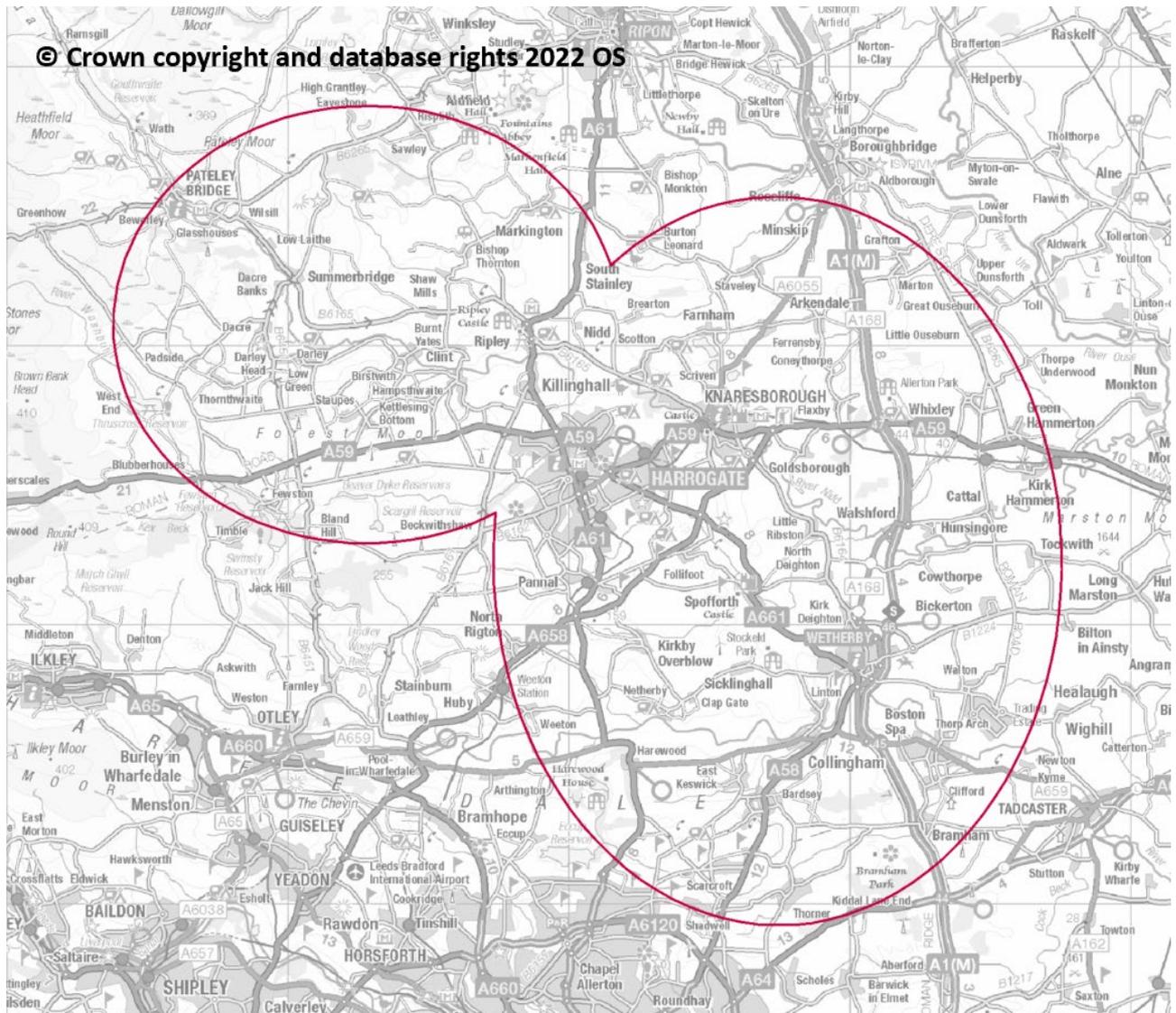
Additional information: If applicants wish to use the High Hunsley broadcast transmitter site, Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference criteria.

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance within northern parts of the Mansfield & Worksop small-scale DAB area and on high ground in the west of the Barnsley and Huddersfield small-scale DAB areas. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

Due to the topography of the Vale of York and its surrounds, within this advertised area levels of interference to the west of a line drawn from South Cave, northwards through Market Weighton to Painsthorpe may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Wetherby & Harrogate



Licence area population: 123,846

Size of licence area (km²): 617

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FOUR services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): North Yorkshire (670,391)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 97,305 (14.5%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Leeds (1,152,218)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 29,126 (2.5%)

Proposed frequency block: 9C

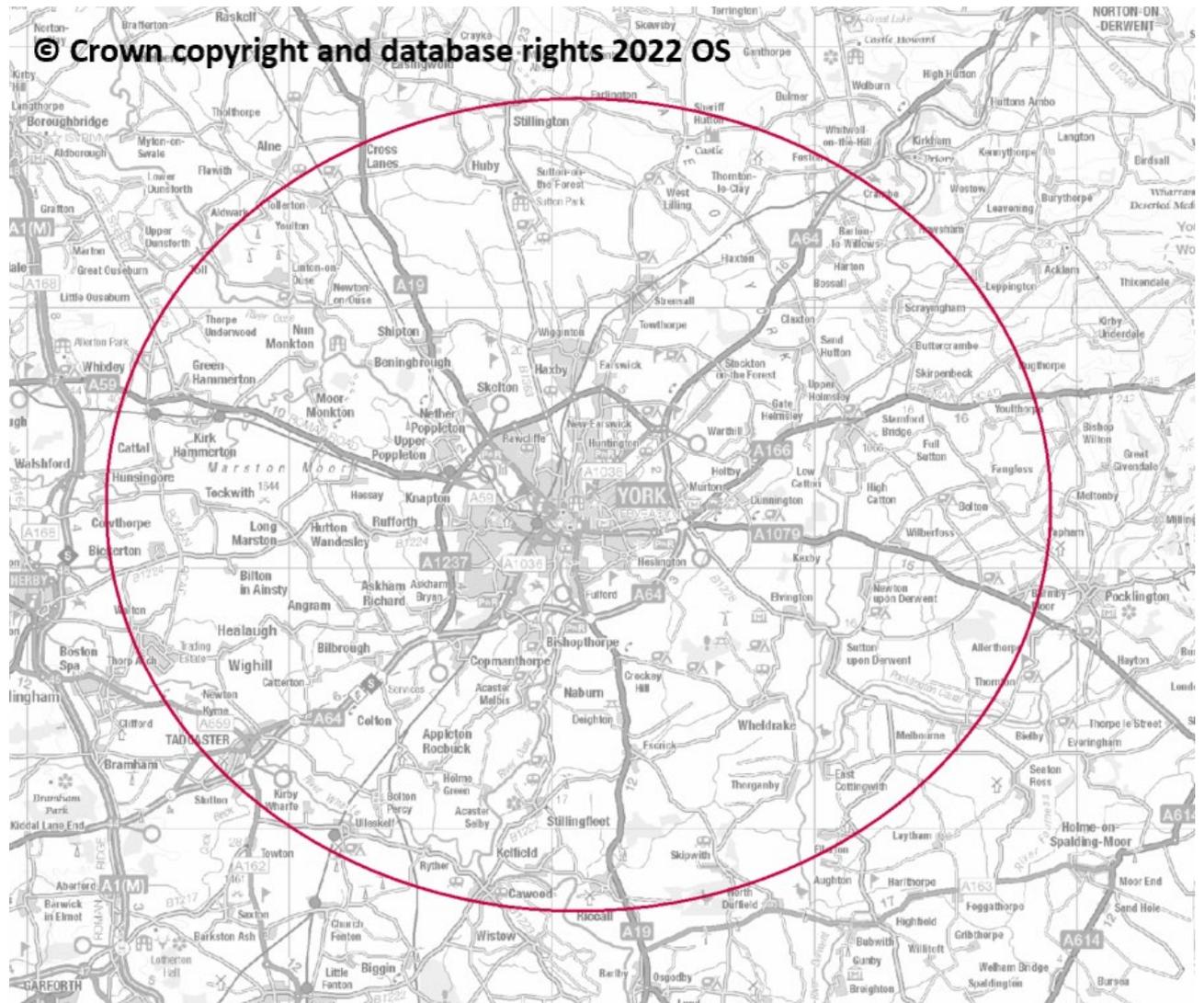
Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Darlington & Bishops Auckland; Stockton-on-Tees; Middlesbrough & Redcar; Yorkshire Coast; East Hull; Grimsby; Lincoln; Mansfield & Worksop; Huddersfield; Halifax

Additional information: Within this advertised area, the high ground of the Pennines, south-west of Harrogate and south-west of Boston Spa may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance west of Scarborough within the Yorkshire Coast small-scale DAB area, high ground in the northern part of the Halifax small-scale DAB area and to the south-east of Almondsbury within the Huddersfield small-scale DAB area. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

York



Licence area population: 203,930

Size of licence area (km²): 857

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FIVE services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): North Yorkshire (670,391)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 194,138 (29.0%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Leeds (1,152,218)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 7,657 (0.7%)

Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population): Humberside (777,380)

Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage): 9,616 (1.2%)

Proposed frequency block: 8B

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Darlington & Bishops Auckland; Stockton-on-Tees; Middlesbrough & Redcar; Yorkshire Coast; East Hull; Grimsby; Lincoln; Mansfield & Worksop; Sheffield & Rotherham; Huddersfield; Halifax; Bradford

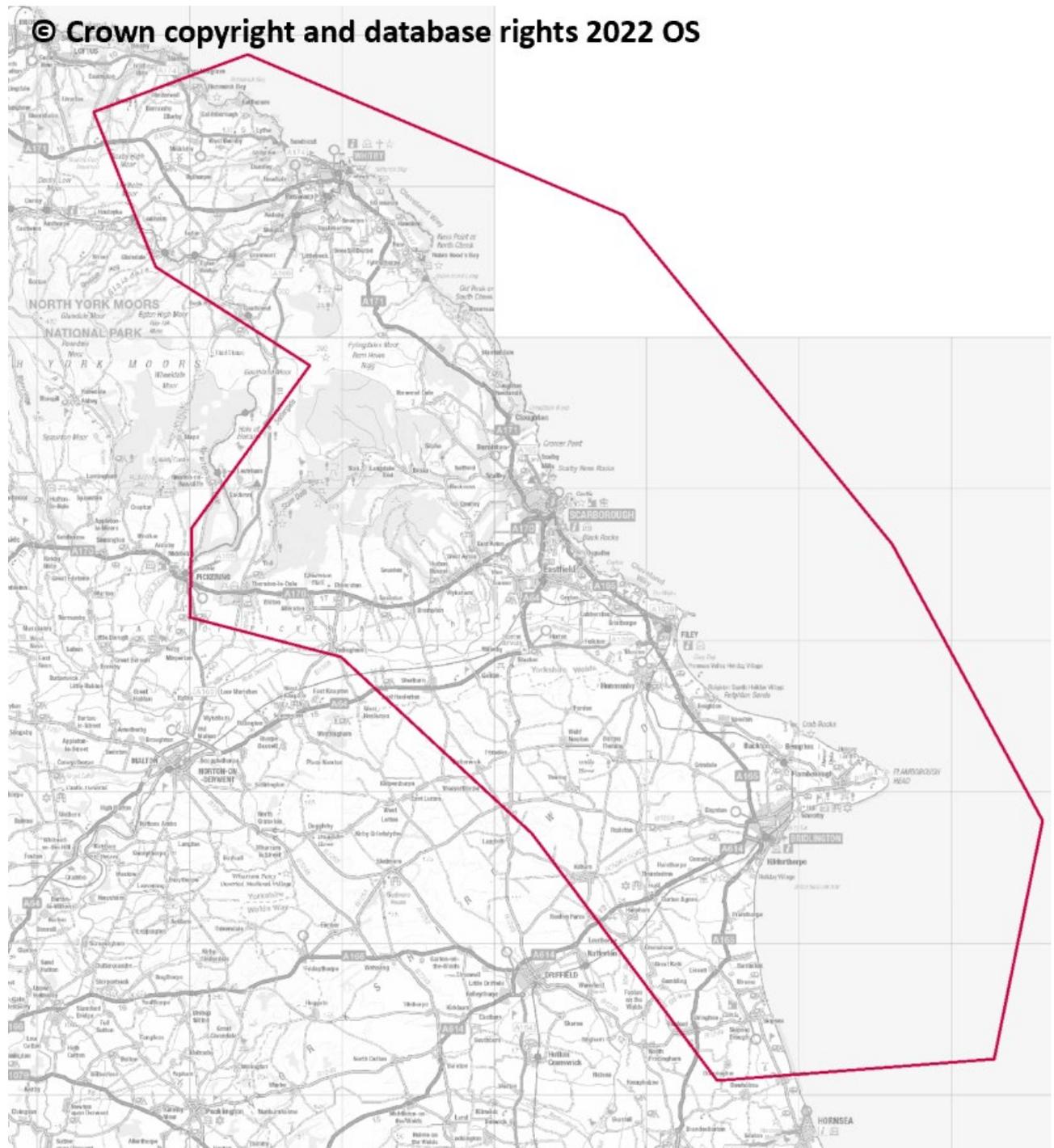
Additional information: If applicants wish to use the Acklam Wold broadcast transmitter site, Ofcom predictions indicate that a low power, low antenna height and/or directional antenna are likely to be necessary to meet outgoing interference criteria.

Within some southern parts of this advertised area, there may be higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

As a result of proximity and topography, it may be challenging for applicants to maintain outgoing interference below the levels specified in the Notes of Guidance within the North York Moors part of the Yorkshire Coast small-scale DAB area, the eastern Pennines within the Sheffield & Rotherham and Huddersfield small-scale DAB areas as well as the high ground between the Halifax and Bradford small-scale DAB areas. Ofcom expects applicants to pay particular attention to keep any such interference to a minimum.

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

Yorkshire Coast



Licence area population: 134,451

Size of licence area (km²): 2,150

Reserved C-DSP capacity: FOUR services

Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population): North Yorkshire (670,391)

Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage): 95,888 (14.3%)

Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population): Humberside (777,380)

Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage): 38,563 (5.0%)

Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population): Teesside (800,680)

Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage): 18,621 (2.3%)

Proposed frequency block: 9C

Possible co-block small-scale DAB licence areas to be protected: Darlington & Bishops Auckland; Stockton-on-Tees; Peterlee; Boston, Spalding & Skegness; Lincoln; Doncaster; York; Wetherby & Harrogate; Catterick, Ripon & Thirsk

Additional information: Within this advertised area, the high ground north of the A170 & east of Pickering, Rowley High Moor, on & north of Potato Hill and around Flamborough Head may be subject to higher levels of incoming interference from small-scale DAB multiplexes that may already be on-air or may come on air in the future. Further details are given in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance for DAB multiplex licensees (paragraph 4.14 onwards).

See [licence area data](#) for this region and [population data](#) for this region.

3. How to apply

Submission of application form and fees

- 3.1 Applications for any of the small-scale radio multiplex licences advertised in this document must be made using the small-scale radio multiplex licence application form. The application form is divided into two parts: [Part A](#) (which we will publish on our website) and [Part B](#) (which will remain confidential). For applicants wishing to apply – subject to the ownership restrictions – for more than one small-scale radio multiplex licence, a separate application form will be required for each application.
- 3.2 Prior to completing an application, it is *essential* that applicants should read the [guidance notes on small-scale radio multiplex licences](#) carefully. In addition to providing further information about the questions we ask in the application form, the Notes of Guidance provide a detailed guide to the small-scale DAB multiplex licensing regime as a whole, including matters such as the ownership restrictions, the statutory assessment criteria and how Ofcom will interpret these criteria in our assessment of applications.
- 3.3 The closing date for the receipt of completed small-scale radio multiplex licence application forms, and other required documentation, is **5pm on Monday 25 April 2022**. Both the confidential and non-confidential parts of the application form should be sent by e-mail to: smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk. The subject line of the e-mail should be clearly labelled as “[Applicant name] application for SSDAB mux licence: [licence area].” The deadline for receipt of applications will be strictly enforced, so you are advised to submit your application in plenty of time to allow for any potential delivery problems. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged via an automated e-mail from the Broadcast Licensing team.
- 3.4 An application fee of **£500** will be payable for each small-scale radio multiplex licence application submitted. This fee will not be refundable in any circumstances. Electronic bank transfer payments must be received in Ofcom’s bank account no later than five working days after the application form has been received by Ofcom. Similarly, if paying by cheque, we must receive the cheque within five days of our receipt of the application. Failure to comply with these requirements may render the application liable to disqualification. Full details of how to make the application fee payment can be found in the ‘Application fee’ section in the [guidance notes on small-scale radio multiplex licences](#).

Assessment process

- 3.5 Ofcom will assess applications against both our general duties and the specific statutory assessment criteria (as reproduced and expanded upon in the Notes of Guidance) and based upon the proposals presented in the completed application form. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the submitted application is complete, with every question responded to (or, where appropriate, marked ‘Not applicable’) and all additional information required (such as the technical plan) provided in addition to the application form. Once received, no material amendments to the application may be made by the applicant nor any new material

introduced, without the agreement of Ofcom. Ofcom will not agree to any such amendment which it considers would be unfair to any other applicant for the licence.

- 3.6 In the course of assessing applications, Ofcom may seek clarification and/or amplification of proposals in any application and require the applicant to provide us with additional information.
- 3.7 All of the non-confidential ('Part A') sections of the application forms that we receive will be published on our website following the closing-date for applications. In assessing the applications, Ofcom may take into account any comments received from the public, which can be made to it at smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk with respect to the applications submitted.
- 3.8 Our aim is to consider all applications for the advertised small-scale radio multiplex licences within six months of submission, although this is subject to, among other things, the number of applications submitted for all of the licences we have advertised in Round Three.
- 3.9 Once a licence award decision has been made and applicants have been informed, Ofcom will publish the key determining factors which led to our decision.