

**Title:**

**Forename:**

**Surname:**

**Representing:**

Self

**Organisation (if applicable):**

**Email:**

**What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:**

Keep name confidential

**If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:**

**Ofcom may publish a response summary:**

Yes

**I confirm that I have read the declaration:**

Yes

**Ofcom should only publish this response after the consultation has ended:**

You may publish my response on receipt

**Additional comments:**

You may publish this response as soon as you receive it.

**Question 1: Do you think that allowing Now Digital to extend the coverage area of its Exeter & Torbay local radio multiplex licence to include North Devon would unacceptably narrow the range of DAB programme services available in the Exeter and Torbay area? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

I do not think it would Narrow the services available in Exeter and Torbay.

However, I would like to protest the fact that this is a completely loaded question, which is also completely irrelevant to North Devon. What has Exeter and Torbay got to do with the complete opposite end of the county?

This question is asking something which is completely obvious and is only designed to provide you with the answers you want, in order to push through a request that you would like to see happen.

**Question 2: Do you think that allowing Now Digital to extend the coverage area of its Exeter & Torbay local radio multiplex licence to include North Devon would be calculated to maintain or promote the development of digital sound broadcasting in the UK otherwise than by satellite? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

Of course it would promote digital sound broadcasting! You are asking to extend a DIGITAL service.

My argument is the fact that North Devon is already able to receive a whole range of national Digital Audio Broadcasting services, and I do not see how allowing a quasi national service, such as Heart, (which we can already receive on FM, online and on freeview,) can possibly benefit the area in the slightest!

**Question 3: Do you think that Now Digital's proposals for providing coverage of North Devon are satisfactory? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

I do not believe that Now Digital's proposals are satisfactory.

Looking at the facts; in the long run, only 70% of the population of North Devon will be able to receive DAB. This means that 3 in 10 people will no longer be able to receive radio after the FM transmitters have been switched off. I can not in any way, see how this is satisfactory, and I feel that it would be a backwards step for the radio industry.

Looking at the proposed map of DAB coverage from Now Digital, areas such as Ilfracombe and Combe Martin would completely lose both Heart, and BBC Radio Devon, altogether once FM is switched off. This is completely outrageous, and i can not believe that a government organisation such as OFCOM which is supposed to our best interests at heart, can even be considering such a ludicrous proposal!

**Question 4: Do you consider that Now Digital has the ability to maintain its local radio multiplex service if its request is granted? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

I have no reason not to believe that they would have the ability to maintain the local multiplex, they are a huge national company.

Again, this is a question that is only going to give you the answers you want in order to justify allowing this proposal to go forward.

**Question 5: (For programme service providers on the Exeter & Torbay local radio multiplex only) Do you consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect your rights and interests in the event that Now Digital is permitted to extend coverage to include North Devon?:**

Once again, I am appalled to see that this is another question relating only to Exeter and Torbay! What do these areas have to do with a completely different and isolated area of the largest county within England?

Judging from experience with regards to providers operating from Exeter. I feel that no, there are not sufficient safeguards.

The current so called local service that is broadcast partly from Exeter and the rest from London does not protect our rights in any way. They are completely biased towards South Devon, and do not offer anything to the local area of North Devon in the slightest! Allowing them to broadcast on DAB to North Devon is not going to change this at all.

**Question 6: Do you consider that there any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, the request from Now Digital? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

Well, where do I start?

i do not believe that you should approve this request for many reasons, some of which include:

The fact that Heart FM will be entitled to a no questions asked extension of the ONLY commercial radio license in North Devon. This makes absolutely no sense to me, and makes me feel very uneasy about the relationship OFCOM appears to have with large national companies that have a substantial amount of money behind them.

As I understand it for some reason, there is only ever going to be one Local commercial license granted to The North Devon area. if DAB is extended to here, then there is no chance of any other organisation, trying to provide a local service, which is what the people want. Surely this is against laws of monopoly.

I also understand that it is against OFCOM policy to grant a second commercial license in an area with a population of under 110000 people.

I can totally understand this, and if Heart were only broadcasting to North Devon, I would be inclined to agree with you.

However, it seems to me, that when it suits, Heart Devon is classed as a local station for North Devon, but when they want to, they are classed as a regional station, broadcasting to the whole of North Devon.

For instance, OFCOM and Heart Devon state that the North Devon license has a TSA of only around 90000 people.

Yet The RAJAR Figures take into account the whole of Devon, in an attempt to make their listener figures look better. It is unacceptable for a company to chop and change, and decide which rules suit them one minute and which rules don't the next.

Devon as a whole has many more than 90000 people in it, so your argument of not advertising a second commercial license doesn't make any sense.

I have been an avid follower of The Voice FM's operations since it first began, and was appalled to hear that the directors were blatantly lied to with regards to the re advertisement of the North Devon Commercial license.

They were explicitly told that it was too late for a DAB Multiplex extension request to be put in, for a license that should have been pre advertised (as by your own timetable,) months ago.

The fact that I am responding to this consultation means that they were obviously lied to, and this again makes me very uneasy about your agenda. I feel betrayed by OFCOM, and feel that you do not have our best interests at heart.

The only way for you to redeem your reputation as an independent un-biased body is to re advertise the North Devon commercial license, and give the local people and businesses what they want.

Pleas don't be swayed by the cash that can be splashed around by Global Radio, if you want the respect of the UK population, and a lot of our questions regarding your integrity to go away; I implore you to re advertise the North Devon commercial FM License.

It is the only right course of action to take, not only because of the injustice currently being served to an isolated community, but also due to the fact that introducing DAB to North Devon under these proposals, would disadvantage up to 30% of the population, and this is simply unacceptable!