

Title:

Forename:

Surname:

Representing:

Organisation

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?:

None need be kept confidential. While I have not canvassed my electorate specifically on this issue, I am well aware of general feelings

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:

Same as in the Confidentiality section.

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.:

Yes. As a local councillor, I am aware of the financial limitations of the population of North Devon. The transfer of FM Radio Devon to Digital would deprive a large cross section of the area from being able to receive local radio broadcasts

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.:

Digital radio should not be allowed to replace FM radio as it would disenfranchise a large proportion of the population from receiving local radio. By definition local radio is for the local population, and the prohibition from a large section from being able to receive should not be allowed

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 consider these proposals are satisfactory. It would prohibit too many people from receiving the broadcasts, be they at home or travelling, particularly in private cars. FM radio is essential for traffic reports and other essential information that would be silenced if the FM transmission was stopped

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.:

Now Digital may well have the ability to maintain its local radio service, but I am not convinced that it will be received by the majority of the people living in North Devon

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?:

N/A

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.:

Now Digital could easily run parallel with the FM transmissions, but not to replace them until the majority of the population are able to receive it, and that includes car radios.