

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Andrew

Surname:

Smith

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Resident of North Devon

Email:

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep nothing confidential

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

My Street name and house number
My telephone number
my email address

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:

I live in North Devon, specifically in Barnstaple but have lived in other areas of N.D. North Devon is a collection of small towns and villages separated by a drive of an hour and a quarter from Exeter and a two hour drive from Plymouth. My self I have not been to either Exeter or Plymouth this year nor last and in fact can not remember when I last did.

To a great extent ND is self contained many people will hardly ever travel outside of it. So it's a distinct community with its own issues and needs, in some ways we are like an island off the coast of Devon.

I read with great alarm your proposals to effectively end the FM radio service to North Devon and your aim to replace that with a patchy DAB service.

This DAB service should you get your way is proposed to carry the supposedly 'local' HEART radio station broadcast from Exeter - its self of a greatly national content.

Hearing the traffic problems in Exeter or Torbay or Plymouth is of no interest to me what so ever - THEY MIGHT AS WELL BE TALKING ABOUT NEW YORK for all the relevance it has to me or ND.

When I do ever travel outside North Devon to other parts of the country 'Heart' is every where and with the exception of morning and evening shows it has a national content. Its 'local' programmes are essentially clones of each other running a tried and tested low risk formula pumping out the same rubbish programming every where with in their reach.

We have a DAB service now that provides national radio services like the BBC and Absolute, we don't need any more national stations like Heart

Over the last few years ND like many places has felt the effects of snow and been cut off at times. In these times you need a local radio station to provide the information to get about your lives best.

We have a small group of people who are trying to provide this sort of Radio service to us and whose attempt to win the licence for ND has been thwarted by this proposal to establish the DAB service so giving Heart the licence fro ND

Heart didn't start mentioning ND until their licence was under threat.

I understand that from as far away as London in may be easier to view the West Country as a homogeneous whole, but it isn't.

I imagine that the company behind Heart is able to exert a lot of pressure on Ofcom but I urge you to abandon this plan and re advertise the ND FM licence

Sincerely

Andrew Smith
3 Kilnwood Park
Roundswell
Barnstaple
Devon

EX31 3UR

0798827984

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 know about what DAB services are available in Exeter etc but i imagine no extra programming will be made available for North Devon so i cant see how that would mean less for the South of devon

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.:

This is a stupid loaded question designed to give you the answers you want and it bears no relevance to the issues of Radio provision for North Devon

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.:

No not satisfactory - i want the opportunity to listen to proper local programing made in north Devon for north devon. DAB reception will be appaling or non existant for many parts of the area

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.:

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?:

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.:

Do not approve this it is not in the interesets of the people of north devon as it will lead to the loss of any chance of a true local radio station