

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

Lee

**Surname:**

Wardle

**Representing:**

Self

**Organisation (if applicable):**

**Email:**

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

Keep nothing 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:**

**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.:**

No. It would however unacceptably narrow the range of programme services in North Devon. I'm a licensed UK radio amateur and for DAB to be received with the same coverage as

our current FM service a repeater would be needed on every single hill. The topography is very different to that of much of the south and huge numbers of villages & towns & hamlets would lose radio service completely once FM is switched off.

**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.:**

Apologies, I do not understand the question.

**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. Firstly, I'm a licensed UK radio amateur and for DAB to be received with the same coverage as our current FM service a repeater would be needed on every single hill. The topography is very different to that of much of the south and huge numbers of villages & towns & hamlets would lose radio service completely once FM is switched off. This is because of the way the digital radio signal degrades. A low FM signal, although fuzzy is still fully readable. This means that the FM signal effectively travels much further and reaches the dark valleys and poor topography. The digital signal is very different, in a poor signal area the digital sound is unreadable & unintelligible. This is why your Maritime radio service is still using FM/AM/SSB as it has proven itself to be the most reliable solution in low signal areas as a low signal analogue service is still readable where a digital one would not be.  
FACT.

Secondly, North Devon has its own identity. We are cut off from most of the UK due to its location and topography. A local radio service is vitally important for for the people of North Devon. It informs us about school closures and impassible roads in snow conditions (We are a rural location and as such many people live miles from their local school/work/shop and have to drive where gritters do not ever go this service is invaluable). Local radio tells us about problems on our roads, local police incidents, and news that is important to the people of North Devon. We are in NORTH DEVON and we need a NORTH DEVON radio service! For those who will be able to receive the digital signal a service from Torbay and Exeter would be ridiculous. Imagine living in London and only being informed of News, road closures & accidents from Manchester?! It would be allowed would it? So why OFCOM think it's OK for North Devon I have no clue!

**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 view on this.

**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?:**

No, we have no right in this case. Now Digital would be taking away our local radio service. This is unacceptable.

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

I can only echo what I have said in previous questions. Now digital and resultant loss of local radio services would have a detrimental effect on the people, business and economy of North Devon.

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