

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

Martin

**Surname:**

Davies

**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.:**

I am sure that North Devon content is of as little interest to listeners in Torbay, Exeter and Plymouth as the present content is to listeners in North Devon. Yes, there are road updates,

weather, and advertising specific to us in North Devon, but the impression is always that it is an afterthought !

**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.:**

I cannot see how it would maintain or promote the development of digital sound broadcasting, unless there was a considerable investment in providing adequate coverage for all areas of North Devon. At present, we have excellent coverage from FM, but very patchy digital coverage, that is often of too poor a quality to provide any enjoyment !

**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 think that it would be of any benefit to North Devon if Now Digital try to provide coverage for our area - what we need is a dedicated and truly local service as was formerly provided by Lantern FM and is currently being provided by The Voice FM in its different incarnations.

**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 am sure it has, but it will be of little use if it does not fully replace the FM coverage, and provide the truly local service that it replaced when Heart was moved to Exeter. I am sure it needs a vast investment to provide full coverage, and in the present financial situation I cannot see it happening, and this will leave us with an inferior and second class service.

**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?:**

I am not a programme service provider

**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.:**

If Now Digital cannot provide an acceptable service on Heart now, how can they possibly do it on a digital service, replacing FM - there is an excellent degree of coverage on FM in North Devon (much better than National Digital coverage), and an operator in Festival FM/The Voice who can give us a truly local service