
Community Radio

Call for 'expressions of interest' in applying for
community radio licences

CONSULTATION:

Publication Date: 8 November 2017

Closing Date for Responses: 6 December 2017

About this document

This document invites 'expressions of interest' from people and groups that are interested in applying for a community radio licence. These 'expressions of interest' will form the basis for a further invitation to apply for community radio licences.

The deadline for 'expressions of interest' is 5pm on Wednesday 6 December 2017.

1. Community radio ‘expressions of interest’

- 1.1 In April this year, we published the conclusion of our October 2016 consultation, ‘Community Radio: future licensing and technical policy’. In this statement, we set out our intention to offer a fourth round of community radio licensing, inviting applications from areas for which we had received an ‘expression of interest’ between 22 October and 22 December 2016. We explained that this round of licensing was designed to be completed before we were asked to begin licensing small-scale DAB multiplexes under a new framework currently being set up by DCMS.
- 1.2 Since publishing that statement, we have heard from a number of potential community radio applicants who, for a variety of reasons, were not able to apply for a community radio licence in the current round. Further, we anticipate that we will have time to complete a further round of licensing before the licensing framework for small-scale DAB multiplexes is ready for us to implement.
- 1.3 We therefore consider it appropriate to offer the opportunity for a limited number of further community radio licence applications as part of the current fourth round of licensing. In order to plan this work effectively, we are inviting ‘expressions of interest’ for areas of the UK for which potential applicants would like to submit an application.
- 1.4 Early in 2018, we intend to publish a further invitation to apply for community radio licences, on FM only. That invitation will include only areas for which we have received an expression of interest in response to this publication. Potential applicants interested in applying for a licence therefore **MUST** submit an ‘expression of interest’ in response to this publication, for the area for which they intend to apply, in order for us to consider inviting applications for that area in the upcoming invitation to apply for a licence.
- 1.5 Please note that submission of an ‘expression of interest’ in response to this publication will not constitute an application for a licence. To apply for a licence, applicants will need to complete and submit an application form and the requisite supporting documents and fees in response to the invitation to apply, if their area is included.
- 1.6 If we receive a large number of expressions of interest, we may need to impose a limit on the number of areas for which we are willing to invite applications. In other words, we may not be able to invite applications for every area for which we have received an expression of interest.
- 1.7 In this case, we will prioritise the areas as follows:
 - a) areas unserved by existing community radio services, and areas for which we have invited applications but not received any in our current round of licensing (see [here](#) (under the ‘apply for a community radio licence’ drop-down menu) for lists of applications received during 2017);
 - b) areas not covered under a) for which we believe there is a reasonable likelihood of suitable FM frequencies being available;

c) any other areas.

1.8 Potential applicants are responsible for ensuring they keep themselves informed. We strongly recommend that anyone submitting an expression of interest and interested in applying for a licence sign up for Ofcom 'broadcasting updates' [here](#). We will not be writing to anyone who submits an 'expression of interest' with further information.

Information required

1.9 An 'expression of interest' should include the following information:

- the name of the organisation and its contact details;
- the area the group wishes to broadcast to;
- a short description of the target community; and
- the proposed location of the transmitter.

1.10 The submission of an 'expression of interest' will not form part of any subsequent licensing scheme, and it will not be taken as a binding promise on the part of its author to apply for a licence. Equally, an invitation to apply for a community radio licence will not be limited only to those who have previously submitted an 'expression of interest', though it will be limited to areas for which we have received an 'expression of interest' (subject to any required prioritisation, as set out in paragraph 1.7).

How to respond to this publication

1.11 Please send your 'expression of interest' by email or letter to community.radio@ofcom.org.uk, or by post to:

Broadcast Licensing
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

1.12 The closing-date for the submission of 'expressions of interest' is **5pm on Wednesday 6 December 2017**.

1.13 For further information on community radio licensing, please see our website [here](#)

1.14 We strongly recommend that interested groups monitor the Ofcom website, or sign up for broadcasting web alerts for further news [here](#).