

Name: Ian Waugh

Representing: Self

What are your comments on these proposals?

Proposal 1: Your past track record is a disgrace, so why bother streamlining it? "Local" radio these days means "local adverts" and little else, with syndicated content from a single studio transmitted via several "local sites". I propose the experiment of "local radio" has failed, and we/you would be better served by "specialist radio" in national or regional form, Classical, pop, rock, jazz, and so on.

Proposal 2: Already a farce, as demonstrated by the scenario covered in my "proposal1" response above. You are trying to shut the stable door when the horse is already in another land!

Proposal 3: AM and FM should NOT be switched off. Why? Several reasons: Analogue platforms are stable and reliable. Remember 9/11? In my office, we had high bandwidth internet, but had to follow events via a 32 year old analogue radio and an 80's b/w portable TV, as the internet simply ground to a halt. During snow storms in Germany last year, the rescue teams and relief workers had to use SW ham equipment to communicate as mobile phone masts went "off-air". Digital platforms simply do not stand up in extreme situations. FM offers sound quality that DAB doesn't match, and never will, as compressed sound formats will never offer the quality that a good FM signal fed from full digital uncompressed sources can. And here lies another criticism of Ofcom: DAB sells on, among other things, the scrolling text facility. This offers title/artist and other info. This facility EXISTS on RDS-FM, in fact Smooth FM use it, but the BBC, once the worlds leader in broadcast engineering technology/usage, in my view, DELIBERATELY does not use this facility properly, instead just offering show title and web address/e-mail info, plus bland show descriptions. YOU, OFCOM, should have been forcing them to use the facility properly, because people have bought radios to use this facility (Grundig and Roberts offer radios with RDS radiotext, among others) and the BBC must be able to do it on RDS, as they do it on DAB, so the studio text feed obviously exists. And why are we closing AM and FM? So the government can "sell" the spectrum? Well, a/ the government represent the people, have they asked if the people want to sell it? b/ In my view, the spectrum belongs to the people, it's no one elses to sell! The closure of AM/FM will result in the scrapping of hundreds of millions of radios, with the resulting disposal issues of recycling, landfill and so on. We already have the farce where DAB+ will

render DAB radios less than 6 years old obsolete? Can you not see the stupidity of all this? Plus, digital radios are heavy on power consumption compared with analogue, (typically 6 or more times less efficient) so, at a time when we are all urged to reduce power consumption, you force us to increase it for no improvement.

Proposal 4: Agree.

Proposal 5: We have FM stereo, with no problem, and DAB is unable to support it universally, and you consider this an IMPROVEMENT?

Proposal 6: See my response to proposal 1. As I said, you have failed. Admit it!