

Key Commitments change request form

Community radio station name:	Siren FM
Licence number:	CR0088
Licensee (company name):	University of Lincoln
Contact name:	Andrew David
Date of request:	24 th February 2020

Details of requested change(s) to Key Commitments

A community radio operator may apply to Ofcom to have the station's Key Commitments amended.

Please complete the table overleaf by including your current Commitment in the left hand column and your proposed revised Commitment in the centre column. In the right hand column please give a brief explanation as to why you wish to make each change.

We also require you to complete a second table which asks you to explain your proposed changes with reference to the statutory framework.

If you do not provide an explanation for your proposed changes and a completed comparison table, Ofcom cannot consider a Key Commitments change.

Please complete this form and return it to: broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk

Existing Commitment (as in your published Key Commitments) Please only include one commitment change per row, and add more rows as necessary into the table.	Proposed revised/new Key Commitment	Reason for proposed change
<p>The service provides original output for a minimum of nine hours per day during term/semester time and six hours per day at other times.</p>	<p>The service provides original output for a minimum of 60 hours per week during term/semester time and 30 hours per week at other times, including published University holiday times during the academic year.</p>	<p>Following a thorough investigation into a breach of licence in the Summer of 2019, we are requesting a change from a set daily figure to an average weekly figure to better reflect the way the Siren community and university volunteers can provide local output for the station across academic term and non-academic term weeks. Since the breach (recognised and accepted) in Summer 2019 we have been carefully monitoring the schedule which has a higher volume of locally produced material from Thursday – Sundays than the earlier part of a week.</p>

Statutory requirements

Under section 106(1A)(a)-(f) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as amended and modified¹) Ofcom must be satisfied that your proposed changes **meet at least one of the criteria referred to below**.

Please indicate which of these criteria you believe your proposed changes satisfy by deleting YES or NO as applicable and provide an explanation for why you consider a particular criterion is met in the relevant box. You should note that even if Ofcom is of the opinion that your explanation of your proposed changes meets one or more of these criteria, there may still be reasons why Ofcom is unable to consent to the change. When explaining your proposed changes, it is not enough to state that you believe one of the criteria is met. You must also demonstrate *why* you consider that at least one of these criteria is met.

In particular, if Ofcom is not satisfied that the changes would not substantially alter the character of the service (criterion (a) below), Ofcom cannot consent to the change without consulting on your proposals.² If this is the case, we will contact you to confirm that you are happy for us to consult on your proposed changes, and whether you wish to make any changes to your request in light of the need to make it public.

As part of our consideration of your request to make changes to your Key Commitments, we require applicants to provide an explanation for **at least one** of the criteria below.

(a) In your judgement would the proposed changes substantially alter the character of the service?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No, simple streamlines the way the station can operate.	
(b) Do you consider that the proposed changes would narrow the range of programmes available by way of relevant independent radio services to persons comprising the relevant community?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No, simply helps the Managing Editor, the sole paid employee at siren, the manage the output.	
(c) Do you believe that there is evidence that, amongst persons comprising that community, there is a significant demand for, or significant support for, the changes that you have proposed?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
We have consulted with the Siren Advisory Board, on which sits, amongst others the Managing Editor of BBC Radio Lincolnshire and the Head of Programming AT Lincs FM and they have encouraged me to request this change as it better suits the way the station can be managed comfortably and efficiently.	
(d) Do you consider that your proposed changes would be prejudicial to the access by members of that community to the facilities used	YES/NO (Please explain why below)

¹ As amended by sections 312 and 313 of the Communications Act 2003 and modified by the Community Radio Order 2004.

² Ofcom may approve a change under any of criteria (b), (c), (d) and (e) without consultation, or after a consultation of less than 28 days, if Ofcom considers that to hold a consultation at all, or for 28 days or more, would result in a delay that would be likely to prejudice the interests of the licensee. Ofcom may also remove for the purposes of consultation any confidential information submitted by the licensee.

for the provision of the service and for training in the use of those facilities?	
No, there is still ample scope to exceed the hours with programming as it becomes available.	
(e) Do you consider that the proposed changes would be prejudicial to the delivery of social gain resulting from the provision of the service provided under your licence?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No, for all the preceding reasons	

Please set out below any additional information and/or evidence you wish to provide in support of your proposed changes.
In particular, you may wish to outline how you think your proposed change(s) fit(s) within Ofcom's [published guidance on changes to Key Commitments](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/31913/kc-changes-guidance.pdf) (https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/31913/kc-changes-guidance.pdf).

The request was AGREED, because Ofcom was satisfied in relation to Section 106(1A)(a) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as modified by the Community Radio Order 2004, and further modified by the Community Radio (Amendment) Orders 2010 and 2015) – that the change would not substantially alter the character of the service, and for the policy reasons given below.

Ofcom is satisfied that Siren FM will be able to continue providing the overall character of service described in its Key Commitments, even though it will be broadcasting 5% fewer hours of original output over the course of the week during term time, and 29% fewer hours of original output over the course of the week at other times. We are therefore satisfied that the changes to its Key Commitments would not substantially alter the character of the service.

In terms of our policy criteria, we are satisfied that the changes will not affect the station's ability to meet the community radio 'characteristics of service' set out in the legislation, that the changes represent reasonable and modest adjustments to reflect the station's operating experience, and, for the same reasons as outlined above, we judge the extent of the impact of the change on the character of service to be low. We therefore decided to exercise our discretion to approve the changes.

April 2020

Data Protection

We require the information requested in this form in order to carry out our licensing duties under the Broadcasting Act 1990, Broadcasting Act 1996 and Communications Act 2003. Please see Ofcom's [General Privacy Statement](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/foi-dp/general-privacy-statement) (<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/foi-dp/general-privacy-statement>) for further information about how Ofcom handles your personal information and your corresponding rights.