
Small-scale radio multiplex licence

Application form – Part A (public)

Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

LAGAN SSDAB LIMITED

Multiplex licence area being applied for (note this must be a small-scale multiplex area *currently being advertised* by Ofcom):

APPLICATION FORM:

Publication date: 28 January 2022

Contents

Section

1. Overview	1
2. Extent of proposed coverage area	6
3. Ability to establish the proposed service	8
4. Involvement of C-DSP providers; demand or support from programme providers	18
5. Fair and effective competition	20
6. Declaration	21

1. Overview

The purpose of this form

- 1.1 You should complete this form if you are applying for a licence to provide a small-scale radio multiplex service (a 'small-scale radio multiplex licence'). A small-scale radio multiplex service is the means by which DAB digital radio stations ('digital sound programme services') are broadcast, and can transmit around ten stereo digital sound programme services (or a significantly higher number if the DAB+ standard is utilised). The application form is divided into two parts – **Part A** (which we will publish on our website) and **Part B** (which will be kept confidential). This document constitutes Part A; [Part B of the application form](#) is available separately.
- 1.2 Small-scale radio multiplex licences are awarded by Ofcom in a competitive process. Applications are judged against specified criteria, and Ofcom awards the licence to the applicant which it considers best meets the criteria.

How to complete the form

- 1.3 There are detailed instructions on how to complete this form, and information on the next steps in the application process, in our [guidance notes](#) for licence applicants and licensees. Please read this guidance and the frequently asked questions carefully before completing this form.
- 1.4 If you still have a query having read the guidance and FAQ, you can contact Ofcom's Broadcast Licensing team by email (smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk). The team cannot provide advice or pre-approve applications but can answer general questions.
- 1.5 Please download this form and fill it in on a computer. If completing by hand, please use block capitals and black ink.
- 1.6 Please answer all the questions as fully as possible, use extra sheets if required and provide the supporting documentation listed at Section 7 of Part B of the application form. Sufficient information must be supplied about the applicant and the proposed service to enable Ofcom to consider the application in accordance with the statutory criteria for the granting of small-scale radio multiplex licences. Ofcom may need to request further details from you before a licence can be granted.
- 1.7 Ofcom reserves the right to reject applications made using an old version of the form.
- 1.8 Ofcom will accept handwritten application forms, but they must be filled in using block capitals and black ink.
- 1.9 Ofcom reserves the right to reject application forms that are illegible.
- 1.10 You must answer all questions in the application form and respond "N/A" to any questions that do not apply to the applicant.

- 1.11 Ofcom reserves the right to reject applications which do not meet the following criteria:
- a) The declarations in Section 6 of this form and in Section 8 of Part B of the application form must both be signed and dated.
 - b) The person who signs and makes the declaration on behalf of the applicant must be:
 - i) A director of the company or the company secretary where the applicant is a company.
 - ii) A designated member where the applicant is a Limited Liability Partnership.
 - c) All supporting documents as requested in the checklist at Section 7 of Part B of the application form must be supplied in legible form and translated into English where applicable.
- 1.12 If you are completing the form as an agent, i.e. you are acting on the applicant's behalf, please note that you cannot sign it on your client's behalf, and that the person signing the form needs to have personally checked the truth and completeness of the responses given. If your client wishes you to be Ofcom's main contact in relation to the application, please make this clear in an accompanying letter, and provide evidence of your authority to act on behalf of the applicant. The form should be filled in so as to include information about the applicant, not the agent. If Ofcom has further questions once the application has been submitted, we will direct these to the applicant, not to the agent, but we will accept responses from the agent.

How to submit the form

- 1.13 We prefer application forms and required supporting documents to be submitted by email to smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk. Handwritten applications and required supporting documents should be scanned and attached to the email.
- 1.14 You should receive a response from smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk confirming that your application has been received by Ofcom. If you do not receive a response, it is likely your application has not been received and you should contact Ofcom's Contact Centre on 0300 123 3333 and ask for the Broadcast Licensing team who will be able to confirm if your application was received.
- 1.15 If the applicant cannot submit the application form and/or the supporting documentation by email, the applicant may submit the application and/or the supporting documentation by post to:
- Ofcom
Broadcast Licensing
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA
- 1.16 Those applicants who submit their application by post will be sent an acknowledgement.

Application fee

- 1.17 A non-refundable application fee of £500 is payable either by cheque made out to 'Ofcom' or by bank transfer.
- 1.18 Applications will not be assessed until the application fee has been received in Ofcom's bank account.
- 1.19 Ofcom requests that applicants pay the application fee by bank transfer and that immediately after the applicant has instructed their bank to make the payment, confirmation of payment is emailed to ofcom.remittances@ofcom.org.uk.
- 1.20 To ensure that Ofcom can identify the payment, it must include a payment reference which is the applicant's postcode followed by the applicant's name (or as much of the name as is possible to provide within the character limit set by the bank) as provided in response to question 3.1 of this application.
- 1.21 The bank details to be used to pay the application fee are:
- Account Name: Office of Communications
- Bank details: Lloyds Bank, 69-73 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NQ
- Account number: 00782415
- Sort code: 30-97-90
- BIC: LOYDGB21351
- IBAN: GB05 LOYD 3097 9000 7824 15
- SWIFT: LOYD GB 2L
- 1.22 If the applicant is unable to make the payment by bank transfer, a cheque should be made out to 'Ofcom' and sent in the post to Ofcom Broadcast Licensing team, Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA. You must state the name of the applicant as provided in response to question 3.2 and proposed service name on the back of the cheque.
- 1.23 If an applicant is paying the application fee by cheque, the cheque must be received within five days of the application being received by Ofcom or the application may be rejected. If an applicant's cheque bounces, the application may be rejected.

Supporting documentation

- 1.24 You must provide a range of supporting documentation when submitting this application form. Please refer to the checklist at Section 7 of Part B of the application form for full details. Please note that failure to supply the necessary documents will delay your application.
- 1.25 Ofcom reserves the right to reject applications with which the necessary documents are not supplied in legible form.

- 1.26 Please note that Ofcom cannot receive emails larger than 35MB. If your application email exceeds this limit, please send your supporting documents in a separate email(s), clearly indicating the applicant's name in the subject line of the email.

Provision of information

- 1.27 Ofcom requires complete and accurate information to assess applications. In particular, we must be satisfied that those applying for a licence are 'fit and proper' to hold a licence and are not disqualified from participation in a licence.
- 1.28 It is an offence under the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended) to provide false information or withhold relevant information during the application process, and may be grounds for revocation of a licence subsequently granted.

Publication of applications

- 1.29 Part A of the application form (i.e. this document) will be published by Ofcom on our website as soon as practicable following the closing-date for applications. Because this is the 'public' part of the application form, and Ofcom is legally required to publish applications for public comments, *no questions* should be answered by means of the submission of a confidential annex. If, for logistical reasons, an annex is required to answer a question in Part A of the form, this will be published on our website alongside Part A of the application form. Part B of the application form will remain confidential.
- 1.30 Ofcom may take into account any comments received from the public, which can be made to it with respect to Part A of the application submitted.
- 1.31 In submitting Part A of the application, you agree that Ofcom may publish contact details for the licensee, which may include personal data, on the Ofcom website and/or in other relevant publications.
- 1.32 When a licence is granted, the name of the service and public contact details for the licensee will be published on the Ofcom website. These are the details supplied by the applicant in the application form. If you have any questions about the information that we publish, or there are any changes to this information, you should contact the Broadcast Licensing team by email (smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk).
- 1.33 Ofcom considers issued small-scale radio multiplex licences to be public documents and copies of licences will be made available to third parties on request, noting that personal data apart from the name of the licensee may be redacted.

Data protection

- 1.34 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](#) for more information about how we handle your personal information and your corresponding rights.

Keeping up to date with broadcasting matters

- 1.35 We strongly recommend that you subscribe to receive Ofcom's regular email updates on broadcasting matters. These include a [monthly radio licensing update](#) that lists new services licensed, licences revoked, licence transfers, and changes to licensed services during the past month. To subscribe to these updates, please visit www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/email-updates and select 'Broadcasting'.

2. Extent of proposed coverage area

About this section

Under section 51(2)(a) of the 1996 Act, we are required to consider the extent of the coverage area an applicant proposes to achieve within the area which has been advertised. This section therefore asks you to describe the coverage you are proposing to achieve. Further questions on the detailed technical arrangements for the proposed service, including questions on the transmission site(s) that you intend to use and your plans for how the multiplexing and distribution of your service will be arranged are contained in Part B of the application form.

Before completing this section of the form, you should read carefully the notes on 'Extent of proposed coverage area' in Section 4 of Ofcom's [guidance notes for licence applicants and licensees](#).

Applicants should note there are confidential questions relating to extent of coverage area in Part B of the application form.

- 2.1 Please provide a summary, fully consistent with the more detailed information about transmission sites supplied separately in Part B, of the coverage area proposed to be achieved by your technical plan. This should include a description of the target area you are seeking to serve within the advertised licence area, and also any areas you are aiming to serve outside the advertised licence area for this small-scale radio multiplex service. (You may refer to your coverage prediction in the response you provide):

Lagan SSDAB Limited is a consortium of the majority of the community radio stations in the Lisburn and Belfast polygon. We have been working since November 2019 in preparation of this application.

Our brief is to provide good quality indoor and outdoor coverage around the advertised Belfast & Lisburn polygon in a way that is logistically viable; respects the parameters laid down by Ofcom in terms of overspill and protecting specific polygons; recognises the population densities; and is economically sustainable. We will do this through the use of two transmission sites.

1. Grand Central - a skyscraper in central Belfast provides coverage to the main population centre in the Capital City of Northern Ireland.
2. Mullaghglass - a hilltop site to the west of the city to provide coverage towards the Lisburn area.

We have tried to keep overspill to a minimum, although a consequence of using the Grand Central site is overspill to the Hollywood area. Considering the significant commuting, business and community linkages between these localities, we would seek to have Ofcom consider having Hollywood formally absorbed in to our licence area if our application is successful.

We feel we have successfully planned to help mitigate any negative effects from ACI to other DAB multiplexes in the area and to other co-channel multiplex polygons further afield. In particular, we have taken great care to protect and prevent interference towards the Newry as required by Ofcom as part of the application for this Mux.

We identified and have access to an additional site which would enhance coverage towards Lisburn (Shannons), however, its location has more residential housing around the transmission site than Mullaghglass and overspill would be greater including towards the Newry polygon.

Subject to availability of frequencies and impact on neighbouring polygons we would be happy to fund additional in-fill transmitter installations as required or desired by Ofcom.

2.2 Please provide summary details of the sites required to achieve this coverage by completing the table below (add additional rows as required):

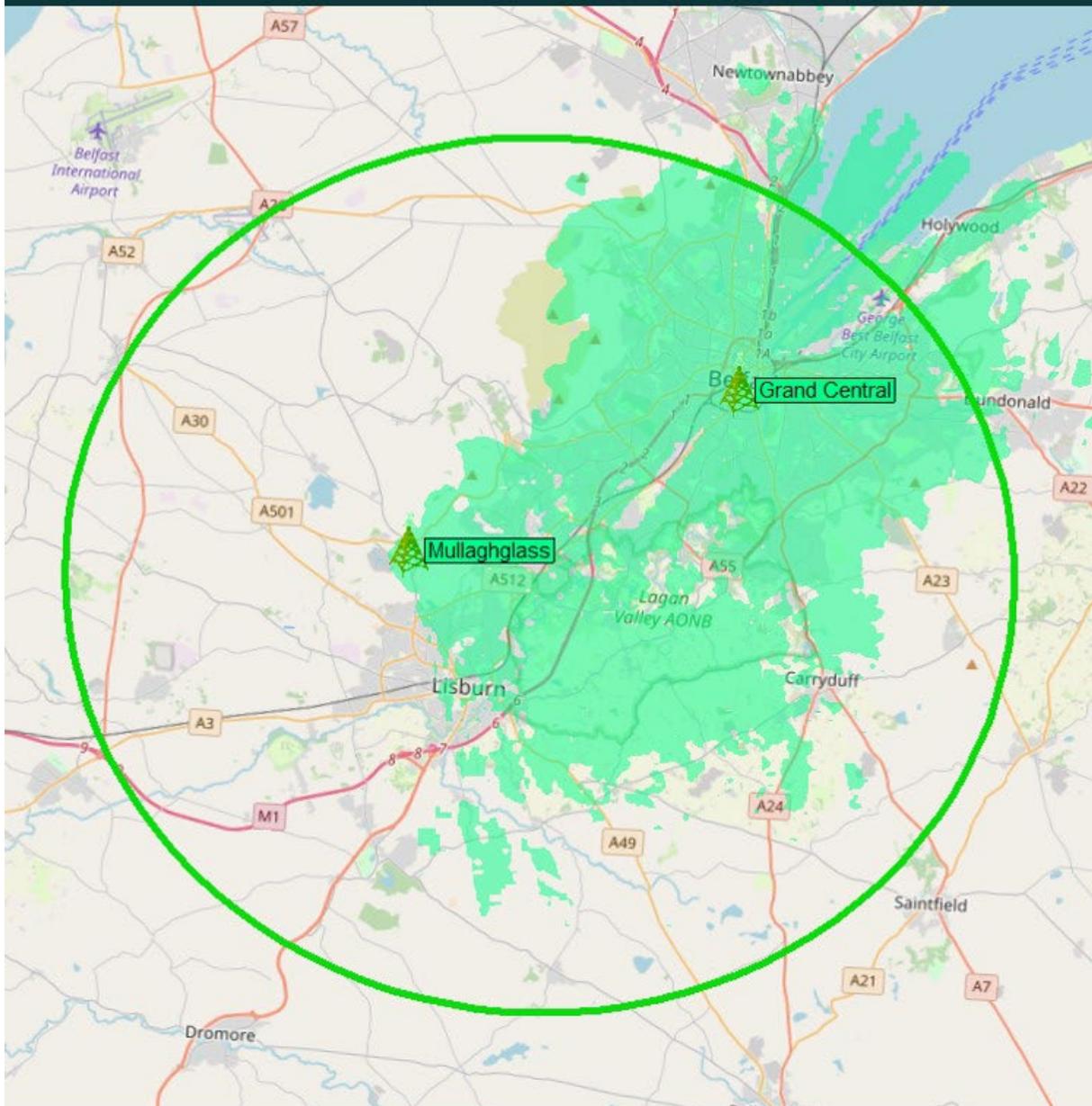
Site name	NGR	Antenna height (m agl)	Antenna type proposed with bearing	New or existing antenna	ERP (W)
Grand Central	IJ337617382 1	80m AGL	Onnidirectional	New	100w
Mullaghglass Road	NW3643724 583	14m AGL	Directional, 120° ETN	New	75w

Small-scale radio multiplex licence: Application form (Part A)

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- 2.3 Please provide a coverage prediction map for the whole transmitter network you are proposing to build within 18 months if you are awarded a licence. The map should show the 63 dB μ V/m field strength and the advertised small-scale DAB licence area contour. [Small-scale DAB licence areas in GIS format](#) are available on the Ofcom website.

Belfast 2TX Network – 63dB μ V/m, Indoor Coverage



UK DAB Networks

ukdab.net

2.4 Please provide the following details of the prediction software used for your coverage assessments:

Small-scale radio multiplex licence: Application form (Part A)

Provide the name and version of the prediction tool used.	ATDI HTZ Communications x64
Detail the terrain model used by the software and its resolution.	DTM: DEFRA 1m and 2m resolution (DSM+DTM)
Detail the ground cover (clutter) data used by the software and its resolution.	Buildings: DEFRA (automatic extraction – slope algorithm - performed at 2 m resolution then resampled) Vegetation (park, wood, forest) and Hydro from Corine Land Cover 2018 and Urban Atlas 2018 (European Environment Agency) Roads and railways from Open Street Map (2019)
What propagation algorithm has been used?	Model pre-set: Fresnel Diffraction geometry: Deygout 94 Subpath attenuation: Coarse Integration FZ fraction: 0.8 Earth radius (sea and land): 28,500km
Where multiple sites are proposed, describe what methodology has been used to assess the network (SFN) gain	Power Sum
If these predictions have not used Ofcom-provided population data, state what population data has been used and its source.	Ofcom data used
Have your predictions been generated by a commercial organisation? If so, by whom?	UK DAB Networks Ltd

3. Ability to establish the proposed service

About this section

In Section 3, we are asking questions about the applicant company, its financial and business plan, the relevant expertise and experience of those who will be involved in providing the small-scale radio multiplex service, and the timetable for coverage roll-out. The answers to these questions will enable Ofcom to assess the application under section 51(2)(c) of the 1996 Act. Additional information is requested in Part B of the application form.

In the first part of this section we are asking for details of the applicant's officers (directors or, in the case of LLPs, designated members), its shareholders and participants. Where applicable, we are also asking for details of the officers of the applicant's parent and associated companies or LLPs etc.

If any of the individuals named in your responses are known by more than one name/version of their name, all names must be provided.

Certain persons are disqualified from holding a small-scale radio multiplex licence. This section asks the questions which enable us to consider this for those types of disqualification which apply specifically to bodies corporate. It also asks questions which are relevant to our assessment of the applicant's fitness and properness to hold a small-scale radio multiplex licence.

The response boxes and tables should be expanded or repeated where necessary, or provided in a separate annex.

'Officerships' in this section refers to: directorships of bodies corporate, designated memberships of LLPs, or membership of a governing body of an unincorporated association (including partnerships).

The remaining questions in Section 3 relate to the applicant's financial and business plan, the expertise and experience of those involved, and the planned timetable for launching the proposed multiplex service.

Applicants should note there are confidential questions relating to extent of coverage area in Part B of the application form.

Applicant's details

3.1 Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

LAGAN SSDAB LIMITED

3.2 Company registration number stated on Companies House (if applicable):

NI646958

3.3 For UK registered companies, the address of the applicant's registered office stated on Companies House. For non-UK registered companies, the principal office address:

2nd Floor, Merrion Business Centre,
 58 Howard Street,
 Belfast,
 BT1 6PJ
 Northern Ireland

3.4 If a UK registered company, is the **current** Memorandum and Articles of Association document available on the Companies House website?

Yes

If no, please submit the up-to-date document and indicate you have done so in the checklist in Section 7 of Part B of the application form.

Ownership and control of company which will hold the licence

Details of officers

3.5 Please complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to provide the following details for each director or designated member of the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Full name of individual	Correspondence address ¹	Country of residence	Other officerships held (and nature of the business concerned)	Other employment
Dr John Coulter	Merrion Business Centre, 58 Howard Street, Belfast. BT1 6PJ.	Northern Ireland	Director of Sunshine 1049 Ltd	Journalist Lecturer
Mr Joseph McCormick	Merrion Business Centre, 58 Howard Street, Belfast. BT1 6PJ.	Northern Ireland	Director of Belfast 89 Ltd	Business Consultant Broadcaster

¹ This should be the same address as is held and published by Companies House.

Small-scale radio multiplex licence: Application form (Part A)

Ms Rachel Berry	Merrion Business Centre, 58 Howard Street, Belfast. BT1 6PJ.	Northern Ireland	Director of Juice Belfast Ltd	Lawyer
Mr Niall O Corrain	Merrion Business Centre, 58 Howard Street, Belfast. BT1 6PJ.	Northern Ireland	Director of Portadown Community Radio Limited	Radio Manager
Mr Christopher Barber	Merrion Business Centre, 58 Howard Street, Belfast. BT1 6PJ.	Northern Ireland	Director of Blast106 Ltd	Broadcaster Media Trainer

Details of participants

3.6 Please complete the table overleaf, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies or individuals which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, in the applicant (i.e. the “participants”). If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

(If parts of this question are not applicable to the applicant – for example, because the applicant does not have shareholders – please respond “N/A” in the relevant parts of the table.)

Full name of participant (existing and proposed)	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
Belfast FM Limited	N/A	8000	20%	20%
Blast106 Limited	N/A	8000	20%	20%
Juice Belfast Limited	N/A	8000	20%	20%
Portadown Community Radio Limited	N/A	8000	20%	20%
Sunshine 1049 Limited	N/A	8000	20%	20%

Comments				
Each participant has a director on the Board of LAGAN SSDAB Ltd.				

Details of relationships of control

- 3.7 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list any bodies corporate which are controlled *by* the applicant, any director of the applicant, any person/body corporate with control over the applicant, or any body corporate controlled by a person/body corporate controlling the applicant. Please include bodies corporate under joint control – i.e. which are controlled acting together in concert with third parties (e.g. because of a shareholder’s agreement):

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of body corporate	Address	Person/body controlling the entity (i.e. the applicant itself or its associate)
N/A		

Details of persons who control the applicant

- 3.8 Complete the table overleaf, expanding it if necessary, *to list all persons/bodies corporate who control the applicant*, or control any person/body corporate with control over the applicant. Please include persons or bodies that control the applicant (or body corporate with control over the applicant) jointly i.e. acting together in concert with third parties (e.g. because of a shareholder’s agreement). Please note that some of this information may repeat information provided above on shareholders and other participants in the applicant:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of person/body corporate	Address	Person/body controlled by the entity (i.e. the applicant itself or its associate)
N/A		

3.9 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list other bodies in which any individual listed in response to question 3.8 is a director or designated member:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of individual	Name of body in which individual is a director or designated member
N/A	

3.10 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies corporate which are controlled (including jointly controlled) by any body corporate listed in response to question 3.8:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of body corporate listed in 3.8	Body corporate controlled
N/A	

3.11 In relation to each body corporate identified in response to question 3.8, complete the table overleaf, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, in the body corporate concerned (i.e. “participants”). You may, but are not required to, exclude from this table any bodies listed in response to question 3.8. If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Name of body corporate identified in response to question 3.8				
Full name of participant	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
N/A				
Comments				

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Involvement of the applicant in specified activities

3.12 Please state below whether the applicant, or any individual or body corporate identified in questions 3.5 to 3.11 is, or is involved in, any of the below, and the extent of that interest.

Activity/involvement	Yes or No	Please state who is involved; the name of the body/individual/agency they are involved with; and the extent of their involvement
A local authority	No	
A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature, or which is affiliated to such a body	No	
A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a religious nature; ²	No	Sunshine 1049 Limited operates one of Belfast's Community Radio Station serving the Christian community from all denominations across Belfast. However, the company is not itself a religious body nor is its objects wholly or mainly of a religious nature.
An individual who is an officer of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	
A body corporate which is an associate (as defined in paragraphs 1(1) and 1(1A) of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	
An advertising agency or an associate of an advertising agency	No	

² Please refer to sections 3 to 5 of Ofcom's [religious guidance note](#) for details on how we determine the eligibility of religious bodies to hold certain broadcasting licences.

Details of applications, licences and sanctions

3.13 Please answer 'yes' or 'no' to the following questions about the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

a) Is the applicant a current licensee of Ofcom?

No

b) Has the applicant ever held an Ofcom broadcasting licence before?

No

c) Has anyone involved in the proposed service held an Ofcom broadcasting licence or been involved in an Ofcom-licensed broadcast service before?

Yes

d) Does the applicant control an existing Ofcom licensee?

No

e) Is the applicant controlled by an existing licensee or by any person who is connected (within the meaning of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) with an existing licensee (i.e. as a "participant")?

Yes

f) Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant - made any other application to Ofcom (or its predecessor broadcast regulators – the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority) for any licence which has since been surrendered by the licensee or revoked by Ofcom (or one of its predecessor regulators)?

No

g) Is the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – subject to any current or pending investigation by any statutory regulatory or government body in the United Kingdom or abroad in respect of any broadcast-related matter?

No

h) Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been subject to a statutory sanction for contravening a condition of a broadcasting licence in the UK or any other jurisdiction?

No

Small-scale radio multiplex licence: Application form (Part A)

3.14 If the response to any of the questions (a) to (i) in 3.13 above is 'yes', please provide the details, expanding the table where necessary:

	Licence number(s) (if known)	Details
(a)		
(b)		
(c & e)	CR100062	Belfast FM Limited holds a Community Radio Licence for Belfast (Belfast 89) Joseph McCormack is a director of Belfast FM Ltd and appointed by it as a director of Lagan SSDAB Limited.
(c & e)	CR000140	Blast106 Limited holds a Community Radio Licence for Belfast (Blast106) Christopher Barberis a director of Blast106 Ltd and appointed by it as a director of Lagan SSDAB Limited.
(c & e)	CR102273	Juice Belfast Limited holds a Community Radio Licence for Belfast (Juice 1049) Rachel Berry is a director of Juice Belfast Limited and appointed by it as a director of Lagan SSDAB Limited.
(c & e)	CR102263	Sunshine 1049 Limited holds a Community Radio Licence for Belfast (Sunshine 1049) John Coulter is a director of Sunshine 1049 Ltd and appointed by it as a director of Lagan SSDAB Limited.
(c & e)	CR100059	Portadown Community Radio Limited holds a Community Radio Licence for Portadown (ABCs YourFM) Niall O Corrain is a director of Portadown Community Radio Ltd and appointed by it as a director of Lagan SSDAB Limited.
(d)		
(f)		
(g)		
(h)		
(i)		

- 3.15 Please provide any further information you hold, relating to the past conduct of the applicant or those individuals listed, in regulatory matters or in matters going to honesty and/or compliance, which may be relevant to Ofcom’s consideration of whether or not the applicant is fit and proper to hold a broadcast licence. If the applicant or the form signatory fails without reasonable excuse at this point to declare any matter of which Ofcom subsequently becomes aware, and which we consider to be relevant to the applicant’s eligibility to hold a licence, we will take it into account in determining the question of whether the applicant/licensee remains fit and proper to hold a licence.

If you have no information to provide, please respond “N/A”.

N/A

- 3.16 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been convicted of an unlicensed broadcasting offence?

No (delete as appropriate).

If yes, please provide the following details:

Full name	Date of conviction/action (dd/mm/yy)	Penalty

Financial and business plan

- 3.17 Please provide a high-level estimate of the costs you believe will be required to establish the multiplex service.

We have budgeted £26,000 to cover the capital cost of launching the DAB multiplex and have allowed a further £4,000 headroom to allow for increase in costs in an inflationary environment should additional infrastructure work be required.

In addition, we have allowed £5,000.00 Working Capital to cover the period between Award and Launch when revenue will begin to be generated.

In addition, we have allowed for a further £5,000.00 contingency.

Therefore, our total initial investment is £40,000.00 and this is already fully funded. These funds are immediately available in the Lagan SSDAB Bank Account and evidence has been provided in the Appendices.

Once the Mux is launched, day-to-day ongoing operating costs will be met through renting capacity on the multiplex to third parties. As the Mux is already oversubscribed to based on our Heads-of-Terms agreements the Mux will be financially self-sufficient from day 1.

The applicant, Lagan SSDAB Limited, is owned and run by experienced operators of Radio services and Transmission installations in the Belfast area who are familiar with the costs of set up and operating transmission facilities.

The management of the multiplex, including its technical start-up, will be contracted to UK DAB Networks, a consultancy and DAB operations company owned by Ash Elford. Ash has established an enviable reputation as one of the pioneers of SSDAB. Ash will be responsible for the day-to-day technical management of the multiplex under the supervision of the Directors. Ash has established UK DAB Networks to provide an effective management and ownership platform for SSDAB operations. Multiplexing software will be sourced from the world's leading multiplex software firm Factum Radioscape.

All administrative, finance, compliance and regulatory functions will be managed by the company directly, to ensure it achieves its aims of serving our CDSP and DSP Service Providers and benefitting the local community.

Our proposed carriage fees are set at a level such as not to be a barrier to services participating in the Mux while at the same time ensuring that the running costs can be met and reinvestment in the Mux can be made.

Lagan SSDAB is a community owned not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Any surplus generated by the Mux will be used as follows:

1. Reinvestment in the Mux.
2. To create a fund for training and development initiatives in the radio sector with a specific emphasis on the community radio sector.

3.18 Please indicate how the costs outlined in 3.17 (above) will be met, under the following headings:

a) Share capital

Lagan SSDAB Limited is a company limited by guarantee and without share issue and therefore does not have share capital

b) Loan stock

Interest-free Loan totalling £40,000 has already been secured and evidence of funds has been provided in the appendices.

The loan is a soft loan (i.e. it is unsecured against the participants and if unable to be repaid within 7 years then it is written off).

Main conditions of the loan are:

1. The company must be, and must remain, non-profit-distributing
2. Funds must only be expended after Ofcom has awarded the licence

The loan has been provided by the community media charity Media Ireland. The loan is to Lagan SSDAB Limited as a corporate body but is notionally divided between the participants equally, reflecting the equal partnership of the company among the community radio stations.

c) Leasing/HP facilities (capital value)

N/A

d) Bank overdraft

N/A

e) Grants and donations

Although we have not taken into account any Grants or Donations in our financial projections Lagan SSDAB Limited as a not-for-profit company would qualify to apply for such funding.

A grant of £500 was received for the purposes of the application fee.

f) Other (please specify)

N/A

3.19 Expanding the table if necessary, please list the providers of the funding which will be used to establish the service, and the amount of funding that each will provide. For incorporated

investing shareholders, please provide a copy of the most recent statutory accounts if they are not currently available on Companies House.

Name of shareholder or investor	Percentage of shares held (if applicable)	Amount of funding provided (£)
Belfast FM Limited	N/A	£8,000 by way of loan detailed above.
Blast106 Limited	N/A	£8,000 by way of loan detailed above.
Juice Belfast Limited	N/A	£8,000 by way of loan detailed above.
Portadown Community Radio Limited	N/A	£8,000 by way of loan detailed above.
Sunshine 1049 Limited	N/A	£8,000 by way of loan detailed above.

- 3.20 All of the funding identified above should be confirmed. If any funding has not been confirmed, or if there are any pre-conditions before the funding is released which have not yet been met, provide an explanation of what needs to be done, the dates by which it needs to be carried out, and any steps the applicant needs to take to ensure the funding is confirmed and/or released.

The funding is confirmed and evidence of available funds in Lagan SSDAB Bank account is supplied as an appendix.

The only condition on spending the funds is the award of the licence by Ofcom.

Relevant expertise and experience

- 3.21 Please provide details of who will be responsible for the day-to-day general management of the multiplex service (for example, dealing with programme service providers and contractual matters). Please also briefly state their previous relevant experience. (Note that any individuals or contractors who cannot be identified at this stage can instead be included in the confidential section (Part B) of the application form.)

Lagan SSDAB is a cooperative consortium of the majority of Ofcom licensed Community Radio Stations in the Belfast & Lisburn Polygon who have been working away behind the scenes since November 2019 in expectation of the advertisement of the Belfast & Lisburn Multiplex.

As such the consortium have unrivalled experience in the operation of low power transmission services in the region, and unlike many commercial radio stations, community radio stations generally self-manage their own transmission facilities which gives our consortium first-hand knowledge invaluable to the successful operation of this Multiplex.

The directorship of Lagan SSDAB Limited is made up of designated representatives of the 5 individual community radio stations which own the company. In appointing these directors, great thought was put in to ensuring that their skills were complimentary to enhance the management of the company to ensure the success of the multiplex.

Joseph McCormack (Director)

Joseph McCormack, has been involved in the provision of Business Training Services, Business Consultancy and the publication of training materials and other business literature over the past 30 years. He specialises in helping small and medium sized businesses gain competitive advantage from their existing IT and telecommunications resources and the business has particular expertise in the area of remote working, internet applications and the mentoring of small businesses in e-business techniques. Prior to his current consultancy role, Joe was a marketing and sales professional with BT in Northern Ireland for almost 20 years.

He was a founder Director of Townsend Enterprise Park Ltd from 1993 until 2016 and served three terms as Chair and twice as Finance Director.

Training and post training one to one mentoring services have also been provided to InvestNI, Irish Rugby Union Professionals Association (IRUPA), Donegal County Enterprise Board, Meath County Enterprise Board, Monaghan Local Enterprise Office and Cavan Local Enterprise Office together with many of Northern Ireland's Local Enterprise Agencies.

He has also worked on programmes for Belfast City Council, Lisburn City and Castlereagh Council, Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council, Derry and Strabane Council and Inter-Tradelreland.

Joe is a Fellow of the Institute of Consulting (Chartered Management Institute) and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing (UUJ).

He is also a Director and Chair of Belfast FM Ltd which operates Belfast 89FM. The company's broadcasting remit from OFCOM is to serve the needs of the over 45s across the city and since beginning broadcasting in 2015, Belfast 89FM has gone from strength to strength.

On the Board of Lagan SSDAB, Joe will lead liaison with public, statutory and industry bodies as well as governance matters of the company.

John Coulter (Director)

Dr John Coulter is well known throughout Ireland as a journalist, columnist and educationalist. Now retired, John was a Senior Lecturer in Broadcast Journalism and in this professional capacity has been involved in a number of RSL stations operated by Belfast Metropolitan College (formerly Belfast Institute of Further & Higher Education). He was also formerly a part-time Press officer to his late father Sam Coulter (a former MLA in the NI Assembly), a freelance political and educational columnist and commentator for a number of broadcasters (TV & Radio) and newspapers.

John's primary degree was in 1981 in Media Studies followed by postgraduate study in Media Education. John holds a Certificate in Adult Education from Queen's University and both a Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Further and Higher Education.

John is a Doctor of Education with his doctoral research thesis on "Journalism Ethics in Northern Ireland."

He has worked with BBC Northern Ireland News and Current Affairs, BBC Radio Foyle, BBC Nationwide, UTV, Channel 4's Dispatches, Morton Newspapers, The Sunday Telegraph, Sunday Mirror, Sunday World, Irish News, Irish Times and Belfast Telegraph.

John's professional appointments include Southern Health and Social Services Council; Northern Ireland representative on the Newspaper Society's National Qualifications Council; and Member of the Executive Council of the Association of External Verifiers. He is an assessor for awards in Media and Journalism; and an External Verifier for awards in Media, Journalism and Performing Arts.

John has an unrivalled network of leaders in media in Northern Ireland and brings this knowledge and contact base to the Board of Lagan SSDAB, together with his strong administrative and financial management skills.

John is a founding director and Chairman of Sunshine 1049, Northern Ireland's only cross-denominational community radio station serving the Christian community. He is also a part-time broadcaster on the station.

Away from media and academia John is a dedicated fundraiser for the charity Autism Northern Ireland.

Christopher Barber (Director)

Chris is one of the longest serving (and surviving) members of the community radio sector in Northern Ireland.

He began his involvement with Feile FM before progressing to broadcast with Blast106 where he was made a director in 2014 and has served in that role ever since.

Efficiency, attention to detail and collegiate personality make Chris the perfect Board member, able to work with people from all walks of life. He is also generous with his time, broadcasting on numerous stations, acting as Head of Volunteering at Blast106 (responsible for recruitment, induction, training & mentoring) and most recently he has been assisting with workshops with a community radio group in Armagh who are at the start of their journey.

Over almost 20 years, his knowledge of the community radio sector in Belfast is unparalleled and his networks among people in the sector is invaluable to the Board. Chris key role within the Board will be liaison with the Service Providers (both CDSP and DSP).

Living close to the city, Chris has always been on-call for any emergency call-outs for faults with Blast106's transmitter site at the Europa Hotel and is proficient in the necessary Health and Safety procedures of working at such sites.

Niall O Corrain (Director)

Niall O'Corrain is from Lisburn, the smaller of the 2 centres in the polygon.

He has been involved in the community radio sector for over 10 years in many different fields including presentation, production, compliance, programming, training, technical, system management and station management.

He currently works with number of community radio stations, supporting training, programming and management of the software systems required for broadcasting.

Previously he was worker at Portadown Community Radio Ltd and is now a director at the station serving in leadership on a voluntary basis.

Niall's core strength is compliance matters and financial administration and will bring these skills to the Board.

Prior to starting his career in the industry he studied on the HND Broadcast Journalism course at Belfast Metropolitan College, where interestingly one of his lecturers was Dr John Coulter whom he now sits on the Board of Lagan SSDAB with.

Rachel Berry (Director)

Rachel Louise Berry is a qualified lawyer with a speciality in media law.

An experienced entrepreneur in the world of sales and marketing, she established her first company in the telecommunications industry (a partnership with Hutchinson's Orange) whilst still in her teens.

Since then she has worked in sales and marketing for one of the UKs largest kitchen manufacturers, currently manages a team of approximately eight hundred home based sales executives, and is responsible for team communications in one of the world's largest Customer Experience Hubs reporting directly to blue chip clients.

In addition to being a busy working mum pursuing her career in law, she has been a dedicated volunteer in community radio and is currently responsible for finance and compliance at Juice Belfast Limited. Together with Niall, she would head up compliance on the Board of Lagan SSDAB Ltd in the operation of the multiplex as well as supervising legal and contractual issues.

Sean Og Mac Braoin (Company Secretary)

Sean Og Mac Braoin is perhaps the most experienced community radio practitioner in Northern Ireland. He has been involved in the application, launch or management of 6 stations here and has designed many systems, procedures and training courses used in the management and operation of community radio stations including the manual ‘Community Radio – 90% Community 10% Radio’.

An alumnus of Edinburgh Napier University, University of Ulster and Durham University his dissertation studying the impact of Community Radio on Community & Youth Work in Northern Ireland.

He guest lectures to 3rd level students as well as supporting other community radio stations with whom he hasn’t been involved and is a keen enthusiast of the expansion of community radio and diversity amongst stations.

Career wise he is a company director and owned a successful group of promotion & marketing businesses in Ireland and Great Britain with clients globally. He is Chairman of The Irish Trust, an Irish-American Charity which funds initiatives on both sides of the Atlantic.

Sean Og’s role will to be to support the Board in their functions and to maintain the necessary statutory and regulatory records and ensure reports and returns are made as necessary.

Lagan SSDAB has also ensured the success of the Belfast and Lisburn Multiplex by contracting experienced specialists to operate the technical requirements both in terms of installation and ongoing management and maintenance of the equipment and systems.

3.22 Please provide details of who will be carrying out the installation and on-going maintenance of your multiplexing / transmitter equipment (or the name of your proposed transmission and multiplex provider if you intend to use a third-party organisation for these services). Please also briefly state their previous relevant experience. (Note that any individuals or contractors who cannot be identified at this stage can instead be included in the confidential section [Part B] of the application form.)

Function	Responsible party	Previous experience
Installation of transmission equipment	Commtronix Ltd	Significant experience of installation of DAB

		transmission systems for small and large broadcasters
Ongoing maintenance of the transmission equipment	Commtronix Ltd	Significant experience of maintenance of DAB transmission systems for small and large broadcasters
Installation of the Multiplexing equipment	Factum Radioscape Ltd	Significant experience of installation of DAB transmission systems for small and large broadcasters
Day-to-day technical management and maintenance of the multiplexing equipment (if different from response to question 3.28 above)	UK DAB Networks Ltd	Significant experience of managing DAB multiplexes.

Timetable for coverage roll-out

3.23 Please tell us how soon after licence award you expect your multiplex service to become operational and achieve the coverage you are proposing:

Subject to Ofcom clearance of spectrum and mindful that there may need to be international clearance, our plans are to launch the multiplex within 9 months of the licence award with a further 3 months allowed for slippage on this timescale as we recognise that Ofcom has a raft of SSDAB Multiplexes to be commissioned and that the location of Belfast/Lisburn possibly needing additional international clearance.

Our funding is in place and we have Heads-of-Terms sufficient to fill the Mux, and are still accepting expressions of interest so we are confident we will launch with a full Mux and a reserve list of stations awaiting a spot.

The launch project will be overseen by UK DAB Networks Ltd who will coordinate with our suppliers for installation of the transmission system (Commtronix) and the multiplexing & encoding using the Factum Radioscape Enmuxa platform which provides a world leading multiplexing system providing good quality audio on a robust system.

Our broadband connectivity and infrastructure will be managed locally by Danny O'Rawe from Director of Fibre Connections Limited and Ni Technology Limited. Danny currently manages broadband and site connectivity for a number of Ofcom licensed community radio stations in Northern Ireland as well as blue chip companies and statutory bodies.

Our directors are all experienced broadcasters and Ofcom Licensees and have experience of establishing new Ofcom licenced services and their associated transmission systems so will be able to professionally manage the Mux through installation, commissioning and launch.

Project plan is available by way of Appendix which details the activities and timescales under which these shall be met to achieve our proposed coverage and launch date.

- 3.24 In addition, please provide, as an annex to be submitted with this application, an outline project plan with timeline (e.g. a Gantt chart or similar) showing the high level activities and tasks leading up to the launch of your multiplex service.

Supplied as Appendix G.

4. Involvement of C-DSP providers; demand or support from programme providers

About this section

Section 51(2)(ca) of the 1996 Act requires Ofcom to take into account the desirability of awarding a small-scale radio multiplex licence to a body corporate that is providing – or proposing to provide – a C-DSP service in the locality being advertised (or involving such a person as a participant in the licence-holding company).

Section 51(2)(f) of the 1996 Act requires Ofcom to take into account evidence that the applicant has support from providers interested in having their existing or planned programme services carried on the proposed multiplex.

Note that we do not require applicants to provide us with a full-line up of services they intend to provide, or details about the content of those services.

Involvement of C-DSP providers

4.1 Is the applicant body proposing to provide its own C-DSP service on the multiplex?

No (please delete accordingly)

4.2 If the answer to the above question is 'yes', please provide a name and brief details of this proposed service. If the service is already licensed by Ofcom, the licence number should be provided:

N/A

4.3 If the answer to the above question is 'no', please provide details of any participant in the applicant body that is proposing to provide a C-DSP service on the multiplex. In this context, a "participant" refers to a person who holds or is beneficially entitled to shares in the applicant or possesses voting power in the applicant. If the service is already licensed by Ofcom, the licence number should be provided. Please refer to the nature of the participation (e.g. shareholding or agreement in relation to voting power):

Belfast FM Ltd – Belfast 89 – CR100062

Blast106 Limited – Blast106 – CR000140

Juice Belfast Ltd – Juice1038 – CR102273

Sunshine 1049 Ltd – Sunshine 1049 – CR102263

Portadown Community Radio Ltd which is a participant in the applicant body but which operates the community radio station ABC’s YourFM (CR100059) in the Portadown/Craigavon area neighbouring the polygon wish to come on as a DSP as they plan to serve the large number of people from Portadown/Craigavon who work in Belfast as it is in the commuter belt but do not wish to have a studio within the polygon.

In addition to the above stations which are participants in the applicant body, 2 other Ofcom licensed community radio stations within the polygon are signed up to be CDSP service providers on our Mux, namely:

BFBS Lisburn

Raidio Failte

A further Ofcom licensed community radio station but which is outside the polygon, FUSE FM which serves the Ulster Scots Community CR is also signed up to be a CDSP on our Mux.

Demand or support from programme providers

- 4.4 Please provide in the table below (expanding the table if necessary) the names of providers (or prospective providers) of community or local digital sound programme services who have expressed their demand or support for the provision of the proposed multiplex service in the area to be served by the multiplex service. For reasons of transparency, the response to this question *must be answered below and should not be provided as a separate annex*. The evidence of the demand or support, such as signed heads of terms or emails, should be provided as a confidential annex, and relate only to the specific multiplex being applied for.

Name of service provider and station name (if known)	Proposed C-DSP or DSP	Nature of evidence of support provided
Belfast 89	CDSP 1	Signed Heads of Terms
BFBS Lisburn	CDSP 2	Signed Heads of Terms
Blast106	CDSP 3	Signed Heads of Terms
FUSE	CDSP 4	Signed Heads of Terms

Small-scale radio multiplex licence: Application form (Part A)

Juice 1038	CDSP 5	Signed Heads of Terms
Raidio Failte	CDSP 6	Signed Heads of Terms
Sunshine 1049	CDSP 7	Signed Heads of Terms
Radio Lisburn Live CIC	CDSP 8	Signed Heads of Terms
Community Radio for Belfast	CDSP 9	Signed Heads of Terms
ABCs YourFM	DSP 1	Signed Heads of Terms
Belfast Country	DSP 2	Signed Heads of Terms
Gold 45	DSP 3	Signed Heads of Terms
NI Rox	DSP 4	Signed Heads of Terms
IUR-fm	DSP 5	Signed Heads of Terms
Blether Box	DSP 6	Signed Heads of Terms
Drive 105	DSP 7	Signed Heads of Terms
Angel Radio	DSP 8	Signed Heads of Terms
Gaydio	DSP 9	Signed Heads of Terms
Sunrise	DSP 10	Signed Heads of Terms
Old Skool NI	DSP 11	Signed Heads of Terms
Tomorrowland	DSP 12	Signed Heads of Terms
Nation 70	DSP 13	Signed Heads of Terms
Nation 80	DSP 14	Signed Heads of Terms
Nation 90	DSP 15	Signed Heads of Terms
Like One	DSP 16	Signed Heads of Terms
Like Pop	DSP 17	Signed Heads of Terms
Like Retro	DSP 18	Signed Heads of Terms
DGUK	DSP 19	Signed Heads of Terms
		28 services in total who have signed Heads of Terms Agreements so far.

5. Fair and effective competition

About this section

Section 51(2)(g) of the 1996 Act requires Ofcom to assess whether, in contracting or offering to contract with programme service providers, the applicant has acted in a manner calculated to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of community and local digital sound programme services.

In assessing applications, we need to have confidence that the prospective small-scale radio multiplex licensee has approached a wide range of potential service providers. Negotiations that have taken place between the applicant and potential service providers need to have been demonstrably fair, and the terms of any contract for service provision must be fair and non-discriminatory.

Applicants should note there is one further question relating to fair and effective competition in Part B of the application form.

- 5.1 Please detail the measures that have already been taken, and will be taken before and during the licence period, to demonstrate that, in contracting or offering to contract with programme services providers, the applicant has acted in a manner calculated to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of such services:

By way of preface, in dealing with interested services we have been clear that the Heads of Terms are non-binding at this point to ensure that if we are over subscribed to a fair and transparent selection procedure can be applied as to what services would be selected.

Of the 7 Ofcom licensed Community Radio Stations within the polygon, 6 of these have signed Heads of Terms (Belfast 89, BFBS Lisburn, Blast106, Juice 1038, Raidio Failte and Sunshine 1049) and the majority of these are exclusively backing our application.

The 7th Community Radio Station (Lisburn's 98FM) is directly linked by directorships with another application for this Mux. Notwithstanding that, we recognise that one of the objectives of SSDAB is to provide a route for FM Community Radio Stations and FM Small Local Commercial Stations to access the digital platform of DAB so we would be ensuring that a spot would be available for Lisburn's 98FM to be carried on our Mux as a CDSP should they wish to do so. This would be facilitated by Community Radio for Belfast Ltd changing from a CDSP spot to a DSP spot and this has already been agreed with them.

Equally, in relation to the FM Small Local Commercial licensees in the polygon, we identified Q Radio (formerly Citybeat) and U105 and have had discussions with both of these. They are both currently being carried on large DAB Muxes in Northern Ireland and have indicated that they are not wishing to access the SSDAB Mux at this time.

We carried out a variety of activities as detailed in the appendices to illicit expressions of interest and we have accepted all expressions of interest and followed these up with Heads of Terms agreements.

We carried out research to identify existing online radio services operating in, or seeking to serve the population in the Belfast and Lisburn Polygon. 19 such stations were identified and contacted and many of these have signed up to Heads of Terms agreements.

We have been clear with services that Heads of Terms does not guarantee carriage and that it is likely that the Mux will be over-subscribed and an open and transparent selection procedure would then be carried out with unsuccessful services being placed on a waiting list.

In addition to directly approaching existing service providers in the polygon we have also promoted the Mux opportunity widely. This has been done through the extensive networks that the participants have locally, regionally and nationally and the activities detailed in the Appendices under Appendix W and Appendix Y.

Our efforts have been most successful resulting in an over subscription from Service Providers who support us. We are, however, mindful of Ofcom guidance regarding contracting in advance of the licensing of the Multiplex. Accordingly, if we are awarded the Multiplex then we will undertake further publicity to illicit further applications and contact directly any Service Providers who are part of any other unsuccessful application for the Mux to ensure Fair & Effective Competition on an ongoing basis. We will then apply equally the draft criteria contained in the appendices. We reserve the right to review and enhance the criteria in consultation with Ofcom once the MUX licence has been awarded.

Any matters relating to payment terms or bitrate will be dealt with separately and will be included in any contractual agreement between Lagan SSDAB Limited and the service provider.

We will maintain an informative website containing details on how Service Providers can join the Multiplex.

6. Declaration

About this section

This form must be submitted by the body corporate which will hold the licence. The declaration must be certified by a company director or the company secretary, and covers all information provided by in the applicant in both Part A and Part B of the application form. The declaration must also be dated.

- a) I hereby apply to Ofcom for the grant of a licence for the small-scale radio multiplex licence described above and declare that the information given in this application form is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.
- b) I further declare and warrant:
 - i) that the applicant is not a disqualified person within the meaning of that expression as defined in Part 2 of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990, as amended, or as a result of a disqualification order under section 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996;
 - ii) that having made all reasonable enquiries neither the applicant nor any person controlling the applicant, as result of the grant to me of the licence, breach any requirement of Schedule 14 to the Communications Act 2003 with regard to the accumulation of interests in broadcasting services or to the restrictions on cross-media interests;
 - iii) that the applicant is not disqualified by virtue of the provisions of section 143 (5) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to political objects and the provisions of section 144 (3) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to the provision of false information or through the withholding of information with the intention of misleading Ofcom; and
 - iv) that no director or person concerned directly or indirectly in the management of the Licensee is the subject to a disqualification order as defined by section 145 (1) of the Broadcasting Act 1996.
- c) I understand that Ofcom reserves the right to revoke the licence (if granted) if at any time any material statement made to Ofcom is found to be false and to have been by the applicant or any member or officer thereof knowing it to be false. I also understand that under sections 144 and 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996, the provision of false information could incur a criminal conviction and a disqualification from the holding of a Broadcasting Act licence. I further certify that, to the best of my knowledge, any matters which might influence Ofcom's judgement as to whether the directors and substantial shareholders involved in this application are fit and proper persons to participate in a radio licence, have been made known to Ofcom.

Full name (BLOCK CAPITALS) of the person authorised to make the application of behalf of the applicant:

Sean Og Mac Braoin

Date of application:

24th April 2022

I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant in my capacity as (delete as appropriate):

Company secretary.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sean Og Mac Braoin', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

You now need to complete the **confidential section (Part B)** of the application form.