



Blast 106

Request to change key commitments

Consultation

Publication date: 16 December 2014

Closing date for responses: 16 January 2015

About this document

Ofcom has published this consultation document following a request from Blast 106 Limited, which holds a community radio licence for Belfast, to change the key commitments of its service Blast 106.

The station's key commitments describe the programme service, social gain objectives, access and participation, and accountability to the target community which it is required to provide, and forms part of the station's licence.

Blast 106 Limited wishes to make changes to a number of its key commitments. These are under the headings 'programming', 'social gain objectives' and 'accountability to the target community'.

A request for a key commitments change can only be approved by Ofcom if it satisfies at least one of the five criteria set out in the Broadcasting Act 1990. As the departure would substantially alter the character of service, we are required by statute to consult on the request.

The consultation closes on 16 January 2015.

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Section 1

Details and background information

- 1.1 Ofcom has received a key commitments change request from Blast 106 Limited, which holds a community radio licence for Belfast, with regard to its service 'Blast 106'. Blast 106's target community is: "Students living in Greater Belfast from Queens University, the University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College and young people living, working or studying in Greater Belfast".
- 1.2 The station commenced broadcasting in July 2009, and the licence was held by Belfast Student Radio Limited. The licence was transferred from Belfast Student Radio Limited to Blast 106 Limited with effect from 7 November 2011. In July 2014 the licence was extended by five years to 7 July 2019.
- 1.3 Blast 106 Limited now wishes to make changes to a number of its key commitments. These are under the headings 'programming', 'social gain objectives' and 'accountability to the target community'.
- 1.4 The current key commitments are appended to this document as annex 6. They can also be viewed on the Ofcom website here:
<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/Community/commitments/cr000140.pdf>
- 1.5 Blast 106 Limited has requested a number of changes, and a copy of its key commitments change request form is appended to this document as annex 5.
- 1.6 To aid understanding of the effect of the proposed changes, a version of Blast 106's key commitments with the proposed changes 'tracked' in the document (i.e. showing what Blast 106 has asked to be removed, and what it has requested to be added) is appended to this document as annex 7.

Statutory framework and considerations

- 1.7 Community radio services are licensed under the terms of three different pieces of legislation: the Community Radio Order 2004 (as amended by the Community Radio (Amendment) Order 2010), the Communications Act 2003 and the Broadcasting Act 1990 ('the legislation'). The legislation sets out requirements that must be met in order for radio services to qualify as 'community radio services', including that such services are non-profit-distributing, are provided for a target community, deliver social gain objectives, invite access and participation in the service, and are accountable to the target community.
- 1.8 Section 106(1) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 requires that community radio licences include such conditions as appear to Ofcom to be appropriate for securing that the character of the licensed service (as proposed by the licence holder when making its application) is maintained during the period for which the licence is in force.
- 1.9 The way section 106(1) applies in practice is that when a prospective licence holder applies for a community radio licence, it must set out its proposals as to the character of the service it intends to provide. Those proposals are summarised in what is known as a 'key commitments' document, which then forms the basis for the terms and conditions contained in the licence regarding the 'character of the service' and its delivery. Such terms and conditions are agreed with each licensee before the station

starts broadcasting. (The 'licensee' is the organisation which holds the community radio licence.)

1.10 The key commitments document includes:

- a description of the community to be served;
- a summary of the character of service (a short description of the station's aims);
- a description of the programme service;
- social gain objectives (including how the station will satisfy the mandatory social gain requirements set out in the legislation, and any other social gain objectives of the service);
- access and participation arrangements; and
- mechanisms to ensure accountability to the target community.

1.11 In determining the licence conditions that should be included in a licence under section 106(1) of the Broadcasting Act 1990, section 106(1A) provides that Ofcom may, in particular, include conditions that enable it to consent to a "*departure from the character of the licensed service*" (or, in other words, the key commitments) should a licence holder subsequently request such a change. Licence Condition 2(5), contained in Part 2 of the Schedule to each community radio licence, makes provision for subsequent changes to a licensee's key commitments. Before Ofcom can give its consent it must be satisfied that one of a number of statutory criteria has been fulfilled (as set out in further detail below). However, the legislation also gives Ofcom discretion not to consent to a proposed change, even if one of these criteria is satisfied.

1.12 Under section 106(1A) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as modified by the Community Radio Order 2004), Ofcom may consent to a change to key commitments only if it is satisfied that *at least* one of the following five statutory criteria is satisfied:

that the departure would not substantially alter the character of service (section 106(1A)(a));

that the departure would not narrow the range of programmes available by way of relevant independent radio services to persons comprising the relevant community (section 106(1A)(b));

that there is evidence that, among persons comprising that community, there is a significant demand for, or significant support for, the change that would result from the departure (section 106(1A)(d));

that the departure would not be prejudicial to the access by members of that community to the facilities used for the provision of the service and for training in the use of those facilities (section 106(1A)(e)); or

that the departure would not be prejudicial to the delivery of social gain resulting from the provision of the service provided under that licence (section 106(1A)(f)).

1.13 The legislation refers to changes to the 'character of service'. We consider that this should include everything that is set out in each service's key commitments section

of its licence (i.e. this goes beyond the sub-section in the key commitments document entitled 'character of service' to encompass the entirety of the key commitments annex to the licence).

- 1.14 Even if Ofcom is of the opinion that the proposed changes satisfy one or more of the statutory criteria above, there may be reasons (depending on the particular circumstances of the case) why Ofcom may not consent to the proposed changes. The additional criteria to which Ofcom will have regard when exercising this discretion can be found at: <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/broadcast/radio-ops/kc-changes-guidance.pdf>
- 1.15 It is our view that the changes proposed by Blast 106 Limited with regards to programming, social gain and accountability are 'substantial', because, taken as a whole, they would be likely to impact on the focus of the service and its target community, moving away from serving students and young people, and towards a service more focussed on serving just young people. As a result we do not consider that Blast 106 Limited's request meets criterion (a) – that the departure would not substantially alter the character of service. Therefore, in accordance with section 106ZA of the Broadcasting Act 1990, we are consulting on the request.
- 1.16 When considering whether criterion (b) is satisfied (the change would not narrow the range of programmes available by way of relevant independent radio services to persons comprising the relevant community), neither local DAB services nor BBC services 'count' as relevant independent radio services. The relevant independent radio services are those local analogue commercial and community stations which operate in the area, which are listed in Annex 8.
- 1.17 The key commitments change request submitted by Blast 106 Limited is at Annex 6. It includes arguments that
- the proposed change to the output would not narrow the range of programmes available by way of independent radio services to persons comprising the relevant community and therefore criterion (b) (of section 106(1A)); is satisfied;
 - there is evidence that, amongst persons comprising the relevant community, there is significant demand and support for the proposed changes, and that therefore criterion (d) (of section 106(1A)); is satisfied;
 - the proposed changes are not prejudicial to access to, and training in the use of, the service's facilities, and that therefore criterion (e) (of section 106(1A)) is satisfied;
 - the proposed changes would not be prejudicial to the delivery of social gain resulting from the provision of the service, and that therefore criterion (f) (of section 106(1A)) is satisfied.
- 1.18 We are seeking views on the request, having particular regard to the criteria set out in Section 106(1A) (b), (d), (e) and (f) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as modified).

Annex 1

Responding to this consultation

How to respond

- A1.1 Ofcom invites written views and comments on the issues raised in this document, to be made **by 5pm on Friday, 16 January 2015**.
- A1.2 Ofcom strongly prefers to receive responses using the online web form at: <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/blast-106/howtorespond/form>, as this helps us to process the responses quickly and efficiently. We would also be grateful if you could assist us by completing a response cover sheet (see Annex 3), to indicate whether or not there are confidentiality issues. This response coversheet is incorporated into the online web form questionnaire.
- A1.3 For larger consultation responses – particularly those with supporting charts, tables or other data – please email: susan.williams@ofcom.org.uk attaching your response in Microsoft Word format, together with a consultation response coversheet.
- A1.4 Responses may alternatively be posted or faxed to the address below:
- Blast 106 consultation
F.A.O. Soo Williams
Manager, Community Radio
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
- A1.5 Note that we do not need a hard copy in addition to an electronic version. Ofcom will acknowledge receipt of responses if they are submitted using the online web form but not otherwise.
- A1.6 It would be helpful if your response could include direct answers to the question asked in this document, at Annex 4. It would also help if you can explain why you hold your views and how the proposals would impact on you.

Further information

- A1.7 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, or need advice on the appropriate form of response, please contact Soo Williams directly on 020 7783 4319.

Confidentiality

- A1.8 We believe it is important for everyone interested in an issue to see the views expressed by consultation respondents. We will therefore usually publish all responses on our website, www.ofcom.org.uk, ideally on receipt. If you think your response should be kept confidential, can you please specify what part or whether all of your response should be kept confidential, and specify why. Please also place such parts in a separate annex.

- A1.9 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and will try to respect this. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.
- A1.10 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's approach on intellectual property rights is explained further on its website at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/terms-of-use/>

Next steps

- A1.11 Following the end of the consultation period, Ofcom intends to publish a statement.
- A1.12 Please note that you can register to receive free mail Updates alerting you to the publications of relevant Ofcom documents. For more details please see: http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/subscribe/select_list.htm

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.13 Ofcom seeks to ensure that responding to a consultation is as easy as possible. For more information please see our consultation principles in Annex 2.
- A1.14 If you have any comments or suggestions on how Ofcom conducts its consultations, please call our consultation helpdesk on 020 7981 3003 or e-mail us at consult@ofcom.org.uk . We would particularly welcome thoughts on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of those groups or individuals, such as small businesses or particular types of residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.
- A1.15 If you would like to discuss these issues or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally you can alternatively contact Graham Howell, Secretary to the Corporation, who is Ofcom's consultation champion:

Graham Howell
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HQ

Tel: 020 7981 3601

Email graham.howell@ofcom.org.uk

Annex 2

Ofcom's consultation principles

A2.1 Ofcom has published the following seven principles that it will follow for each public written consultation:

Before the consultation

A2.2 Where possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation to find out whether we are thinking in the right direction. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

A2.3 We will be clear about who we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.

A2.4 We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible with a summary of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible to give us a written response. If the consultation is complicated, we may provide a shortened Plain English Guide for smaller organisations or individuals who would otherwise not be able to spare the time to share their views.

A2.5 We will consult for up to 10 weeks depending on the potential impact of our proposals.

A2.6 A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and reach out to the largest number of people and organisations interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's 'Consultation Champion' will also be the main person to contact with views on the way we run our consultations.

A2.7 If we are not able to follow one of these principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

A2.8 We think it is important for everyone interested in an issue to see the views of others during a consultation. We would usually publish all the responses we have received on our website. In our statement, we will give reasons for our decisions and will give an account of how the views of those concerned helped shape those decisions.

Annex 3

Consultation response cover sheet

- A3.1 In the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, we will publish all consultation responses in full on our website, www.ofcom.org.uk.
- A3.2 We have produced a coversheet for responses (see below) and would be very grateful if you could send one with your response (this is incorporated into the online web form if you respond in this way). This will speed up our processing of responses, and help to maintain confidentiality where appropriate.
- A3.3 The quality of consultation can be enhanced by publishing responses before the consultation period closes. In particular, this can help those individuals and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. Therefore Ofcom would encourage respondents to complete their coversheet in a way that allows Ofcom to publish their responses upon receipt, rather than waiting until the consultation period has ended.
- A3.4 We strongly prefer to receive responses via the online web form which incorporates the coversheet. If you are responding via email, post or fax you can download an electronic copy of this coversheet in Word or RTF format from the 'Consultations' section of our website at www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/.
- A3.5 Please put any parts of your response you consider should be kept confidential in a separate annex to your response and include your reasons why this part of your response should not be published. This can include information such as your personal background and experience. If you want your name, address, other contact details, or job title to remain confidential, please provide them in your cover sheet only, so that we don't have to edit your response.

Cover sheet for response to an Ofcom consultation

BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title: Blast 106 consultation

To (Ofcom contact): Soo Williams

Name of respondent:

Representing (self or organisation/s):

Address (if not received by email):

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

Nothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name/contact details/job title	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whole response	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part of the response	<input type="checkbox"/>	If there is no separate annex, which parts?	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

DECLARATION

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to publish all responses, including those which are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom seeks to publish responses on receipt. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.

Name

Signed (if hard copy)

Annex 4

Consultation question

Q1. Should Blast 106 Limited be permitted to make its proposed changes to the key commitments of Blast 106, with particular regard to the statutory criteria set out in Section 1 of this consultation document? (Section 106 (1A) of the 1990 Broadcasting Act, as modified by the Community Radio Order 2004).

Annex 5

Key commitments change request form

Community radio station name:	Blast106
Licence number:	CR000140
Licensee (company name):	Blast106 Limited
Contact name:	Sean Og Mac Braoin
Date of request:	12 th December 2014

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: community.radio@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
Blast 106 will establish a community owned Student and Youth Radio Station that will Educate, Inform, Entertain and Represent the entire student and youth community of Belfast. Programmes will be made by students and young people themselves and will reflect their tastes and interests.	No Change	Not Applicable
Daytime output will initially typically comprise 90% music and 10% speech, developing over time to 80% music and 20% speech (“speech” excludes advertising, programme/promotional trails and sponsor credits).	Daytime output when taken as a whole (6am to 7pm) during term time will typically average 85% music and 15% speech; and outside of term time will typically average 90% music and 10% speech (“speech” excludes advertising, programme/promotional trails and sponsor credits).	<p>Our research amongst our community and our volunteers (who are an integral part of our community) indicates that an average across daytime hours of 15% is more in line with what our community wants during daytime.</p> <p>This is also reflective of the fact that our student community would be in lectures, classes or tutorials during daytime hours or if studying they want a background of music rather than intensive speech which is not conducive to concentration and study.</p> <p>The reduction to 10% speech outside of term time is reflective of the fact that many of our volunteers are students who return to regions (NI & Abroad) outside of term time and therefore the station does not have the same volunteer human resource outside of academic terms. We have however introduced a new commitment later which commits the station to having live programming outside of term time which was not previously required at all.</p> <p>The 15% speech commitment is the same output as other English language community radio stations in the surrounding region (Lisburn, Bangor, Downpatrick</p>

		which are connected to a College of Further & Higher Education).
<p>Music output will be very varied but will be directed to the tastes and interests of volunteers and the community served.</p> <p>The station will offer an opportunity to hear alternative music genres and world music and will also cater for the tastes and needs of minority student groups including Ethnic Minority cultures.</p> <p>It will also provide a forum to showcase new local talent and bands.</p>	<p>Music output will be very varied but will be directed to the tastes and interests of volunteers and the community served. For the avoidance of doubt, variety shall be defined as no song typically being played more than once on any one programme (with exception of charity records and Christmas music) and the station ensuring that the music database available for volunteers to choose from in presenting their programmes is typically greater than 3,000 songs.</p> <p>The weekly schedule will offer an opportunity to hear alternative music genres and will also provide a forum to show case new local talent and bands. For the avoidance of doubt, such programming will typically be featured in evenings and/or weekends.</p> <p>The station will facilitate programming by minority student groups and ethnic minority groups in response to demand from such groups and the capacity of those groups to create the programming in accordance with our Character of Service which states that “programmes will be made by students and young people themselves”. For the avoidance of doubt, such programming will typically be featured in evenings and/or weekends.</p>	<p>This reflects what our community has expressed they want both through research and feedback to our volunteers as well as feedback from our volunteers themselves (who are integral members of our target community).</p> <p>As Blast106’s community includes the student population of Belfast our listener behaviour differs so that you cannot necessarily describe daytime programmes to be ‘prime time’ as students would be in lectures, classes or tutorials for much of this time. Accordingly our listenership is as likely to be prime in the evening or night-time and certain weekend times are affected by Belfast’s large transient student population who go home from Friday Night to Sunday afternoon.</p> <p>Accordingly, our scheduling of popular and specialist programming will not necessarily conform to what a commercial radio station or a community radio station serving a broad population demographic would.</p> <p>The modification also reflects the stations commitment in its Character of Service that “programmes will be made by students and young people themselves” and ensures that the station isn’t making programming for which there is no demand or interest.</p> <p>For example the station already provides for programming by and for the minority LGBT community but despite having run advertising campaigns for ethnic minority presenters we currently have only one ethnic minority presenter (although we have had more in the past) and there has been no demand for specific ethnic minority programming to be created from our community. The modification does not place any prohibition or limitation on minority or ethnic minority</p>

		<p>programming only that it ensures that our output is community lead (not station imposed) and again ensures that (as per our Character of Service) “Programmes will be made by students and young people themselves and will reflect their tastes and interests” rather than being a tick box exercise.</p>
<p>Speech output will include debate and discussion on issues of specific interest and importance to students and young people locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Blast 106 will provide local student news and coverage of student sports events. The station will produce documentaries and will cover developments in student politics.</p>	<p>Speech output will include issues of interest to students and young people, as editorially determined by Blast106 Limited.</p> <p>Where appropriate this will include debate and discussion (on and off air) making use of new technological and social media developments to be interactive with our community.</p> <p>When student news stories occur, which would be considered by the station to be of interest and relevance to local students, Blast 106 will feature these at appropriate times in the schedule. The extent of coverage shall be editorially determined by Blast106 Limited.</p> <p>When key student sporting events take place Blast 106 will provide coverage of these at appropriate times in the schedule. The extent of coverage shall be editorially determined by Blast106 Limited.</p> <p>When there are developments in student politics (eg elections of sabbatical officers or major government policy initiatives) Blast 106 will provide coverage of these at appropriate times in the schedule. The extent of coverage shall be editorially determined by Blast106 Limited.</p> <p>The weekly schedule will include pre-recorded and documentary style</p>	<p>This change retains our commitment to including student news, sports and politics/current affairs in our output which is particularly relevant to the student members of our Student & Youth Community. However, it seeks to give greater clarity and definition of the nature of what would constitute issues to be included and what affects the sporadic nature of their inclusion. Blast106 cannot create student news, student sporting events or developments in student politics. If nothing of interest is happening in these then the station cannot simply invent news stories which are untrue or didn't happen simply to meet a daily quota. For example we have already this year provided coverage of the main student sports events to have taken place so far this year (Seigerson Cup and Ulster Senior Cup) and well as running a Student Sports Week immediately after Freshers Week promoting a raft of sporting societies. We also provided coverage of the student elections at both Queens University and University of Ulster but these are time related events which once they are over for the year, they are over. Also, in relation to student news and current affairs, if there is nothing significant happening then we cannot invent news or be an “agent provocateur” – we can only reflect major issues of the day such as changes to student loans or student fees (which we did feature significantly when these were issues of the time and when the local students were marching and protesting).</p> <p>We also broadcast live from the student Fayre that promoted the various clubs, societies etc and we have</p>

	<p>programming.</p> <p>The station will broadcast a news bulletin at least 4 times per day, weekdays, between 6am and 9pm. For the avoidance of doubt this will typically comprise of at least 1 in-house produced news bulletin per weekday, subject to the availability of volunteers, complimented by bulletins provided by external news agencies.</p>	<p>had representatives of numerous student societies in for interviews.</p> <p>Equally the documentary and pre-produced programming on the station will be of interest to our community's demographic regardless of whether it is produced in-house, as a co-production or externally sourced to enhance and broaden our output (for example Environmental Documentaries, Travel Documentaries, Innovation & Enterprise etc).</p> <p>The new commitment also introduces an actual commitment to the minimum number of times we will carry a news bulletin each day – previously there was no such quantitative commitment.</p>
<p>The primary broadcast language will be English with other community languages featuring subject to volunteer/community demand and available resources.</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>During term-time the service will typically be live for at least 12 hours per day (weekdays) and 8 hours per day (weekends).</p> <p>(Live programming may include pre-recorded inserts, if applicable).</p> <p>The majority of the output will be locally produced.</p>	<p>During term-time the service will typically be live for at least 76 hours across the week.</p> <p>Outside of term-time the service will typically be live for at least 40 hours across the week.</p> <p>(Live programming may include pre-recorded inserts, if applicable).</p> <p>The majority of the output will be locally produced.</p>	<p>This represents the same amount of hours across the week as originally committed. The change from daily to weekly calculation simply allows the station flexibility so that if certain shows are cancelled or presenters are studying or ill the station can make up the difference at different periods across the week.</p> <p>The change also introduces a commitment to the station broadcasting live outside of term-time for which there was previously no commitment.</p>
<p>Blast 106 will be aimed at the student and youth population of Belfast. Programming will include output catering for the tastes and needs of minority student groups.</p>	<p>Blast 106 will be aimed at the student and youth population of Belfast primarily aged 18-30.</p>	<p>This retains our core commitment to be aimed at the student and youth population of Belfast, but provides clarity on the age definition surrounding this statement which clarifies that our community is tertiary students, not secondary level pupils, and young people primarily within the age range 18-30.</p> <p>The reference to minority student groups is removed</p>

		here only because it is dealt with extensively in an earlier section dealing with Programming and therefore does not need to be replicated here.
Blast 106 will provide local student news and student politics as they relate to and affect the local student community and will promote debate and discussion throughout, with programming that is interactive with the community served through phone-in, text-in, email and post.	Blast 106 will promote interaction between our station and our community throughout including where appropriate debate and discussion on issues of interest and importance. Interaction will be available via a variety of methods and may include phone-in, text-in, email, post, twitter, facebook, snapshot and other methods resulting from technological and social media advances. For the avoidance of doubt, issues of interest and importance to our community and the extent of coverage shall be editorially determined by Blast106 Limited.	This change reflects the change in technology allowing interaction via non-traditional methods and placing a greater emphasis on them given the demographic of our community. The reference to “student news and student politics” is only removed here because this is dealt with extensively in the earlier section dealing with Programming and therefore does not need replicated here.
Blast 106 will provide training courses in presentation, production and editing to a minimum of 250 people. Members training will be developed to meet their individual training needs and aspirations with additional “refresher” sessions available for members to brush up on their skills and knowledge. Blast 106 will place a specific training emphasis on preparing people for careers in the audiovisual creative industries.	No Change	Not Applicable
Blast 106 will allow students from across the higher education sector in Belfast to work together on programmes and projects. It will have a Marketing Team whose job it will be to conduct surveys and information gathering activities to develop further its	No Change	Not Applicable

<p>understanding of what the target community wants from their station.</p> <p>The station will communicate details of events and activities taking place locally as well as promoting clubs, societies and opportunities of interest to the community served. Blast 106 will also work with local community organisations to promote their events, activities and services.</p>		
<p>Blast 106 will promote the ethos of social enterprise, the value of the social economy and opportunities for students to become involved in local community organisations and become active civic volunteers.</p> <p>The station will, subject to resources, Disseminate information from local authorities and government agencies regarding student entitlements and services and educational opportunities for young people. It will broadcast pre-recorded Public Service Announcements of relevance to the student community (e.g. Crime Prevention, Sexual Health and Alcohol Awareness), subject to available resources.</p> <p>The station will promote economic development and job creation.</p> <p>Blast 106 will seek to integrate the students of Queens University, University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College as part of the wider youth community of Greater Belfast.</p> <p>Blast 106 will seek to support and create strong linkages with other community media initiatives and representative bodies.</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>

<p>Blast 106 will hold open training days on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>All students will have access to the facilities and extensive training will be given in all areas including background roles.</p> <p>Blast 106 will work to ensure that everyone regardless of ability/disability will be able to participate in the life of the station and will take whatever steps are reasonable to ensure that any barriers to participation are overcome.</p> <p>Blast 106 will have a minimum of 250 members.</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Blast 106 may establish different levels of membership so as to be as inclusive as possible while reflecting that the primary focus of the station is the student community of Belfast Metropolitan College, University of Ulster and Queens University.</p> <p>Blast 106 may also establish different levels of membership based on the payment of a membership fee so as to ensure that people who do not pay the membership fee are not excluded from participation in the station.</p> <p>Blast 106 will have a governing Council that meets at least once per academic semester with one of these meetings serving as the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>All members of Blast 106 are members of Council. All Members may attend Council meetings and speak but entitlement to vote and run for any of the elected positions will be determined by the grade of Membership.</p>	<p>Blast106 will hold a full members meeting each academic semester to which all members may attend, speak and vote irrespective of whether they are active volunteers at the time.</p> <p>Blast 106 will have a governing Council that meets at least once per academic semester. The Council will consist of the voluntary Directors and a minimum of 6 members of which 3 will be students or alumni of each of the 3 academic institutions (Queens University, University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College). These 'Council Members' will normally be elected but may be co-opted to ensure continued representation from each of the 3 academic institutions.</p> <p>The Council will submit a report on its activities to each full members meeting.</p> <p>There will be a variety of elected and</p>	<p>We are removing the provisions to have different levels of membership and the provision to allow differentiation of membership based on the payment of a fee. We feel that both of these provisions could be discriminatory and divisive.</p> <p>We are creating a clearer and more straight forward democratic process for the running of Blast106 and including the volunteers directly in the management of the station. This provides for full members meetings and a Council with majority volunteer representation working as an executive in between full member meetings.</p>

<p>The Council will publish its Minutes.</p> <p>There will be a variety of elected and appointed "Officer" positions, as determined by the members, as well as "Teams" which support these officers.</p> <p>The Council will elect 6 members (with at least one from each of the three academic institutions) to be their representatives who together with the volunteer directors of Belfast Student Radio Limited form the Executive Committee of Blast 106.</p> <p>The Executive shall meet at least 3 times per year and will publish its minutes for all members of Council to read and submit their views. The Executive will submit a report on its activities to each meeting of Council.</p>	<p>appointed "Officer" positions, as determined by the members, as well as "Teams" which support these officers.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, the duration and dates of academic terms and semesters as applicable to these Key Commitments shall be defined by the teaching weeks schedule as published by The Queen's University of Belfast.</p>	
<p>Blast 106 will have a published complaints procedure for both members of the station and for the general public.</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>Not Applicable</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?	NO please explain why below
<p>Our existing Character of Service states:</p> <p>“Blast 106 will establish a community owned Student and Youth Radio Station that will Educate, Inform, Entertain and Represent the entire student and youth community of Belfast. Programmes will be made by students and young people themselves and will reflect their tastes and interests.”</p> <p>We are not proposing any change whatsoever to the Character of Service contained in the existing Key Commitments.</p> <p>Furthermore, we do not believe the proposed changes when taken as a whole alter the character of service in any substantial way.</p>	
(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?	NO please explain why below
<p>We are not proposing changes that would narrow the range of programmes as Blast106 will continue to be the only Student and Youth Radio Station for which the programmes are made by students and young people themselves and therefore continue to reflect their tastes</p>	

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.

and interests.

The proposed changes primarily seek to provide greater clarification on the timing of specific programming output and the factors affecting when certain material is aired (for example student elections only happen once a year in February/March so once we have covered these we cannot cover student elections again until the following year. In the same way student sports are seasonal and student news and politic/current affairs is dependent on news happening and government policies being introduced. The station does not have influence over these.

In relation to the programming for minority groups, we already provide for this and the change in wording does not remove this provision. However, it seeks to clarify that (in common with our other programming) this should be made by the minority groups themselves in order that it will reflect their own tastes and interests.

We are retaining our commitment to be a forum to showcase new bands and talent.

We also have sought to clarify through these proposed changes that a student and youth community radio station cannot define its primetime programming in line with the daytime hours that commercial or public service broadcasting radio stations would consider primetime. The nature of lectures, tutorials and classes impact on what we consider to be primetime which is why some of our most popular and important programming is aired in the evenings and Sunday nights reflecting our community's habits and demographic.

The programming outputs are set as minimums, and although our objective may be to exceed these, they are in line with community expectation and a level that we can ensure that we will not fail to meet our commitments at any point.

You will note that we have introduced some quantitative targets that were no previously contained in the existing Key Commitments. Equally our overall weekly target for live Output hours has not changed but is now expressed as a weekly target rather than broken down into weekday/weekend.

The proposals also reflect the internal conversation that we have conducted with our own volunteer base and stakeholders regarding our programming 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
please explain why below

The proposed changes are based on our experience of operating the station over the last number of years, the feedback (unsolicited) that we have had from members of our student & youth community as to what they like best about our service; and research (solicited) into how we can improve our output to best meet the needs and wants of the student & youth community that we serve.

This has been through structured quantitative & qualitative research and a series of focus groups.

The station has not received any complaints directly about the nature of our programming output or the scheduling of output and all of the feedback that we receive is most positive from our community and the proposed changes seek to build on that. Nor have we received any complaints from our volunteers, members or community about the way in which the station is democratically run or the fact that our programming output is all produced on a

voluntary basis.

Independent research carried out by BTW Consulting and funded by the European Union's Tradelinks programme shows that by last year the station had grown to a listenership of 118,995 (aged 15-30) and a weekly reach of 94,460 (aged 15-30).

Blast 106 is the most popular station in Greater Belfast amongst 15-30 year olds with 29.7% of those surveyed stating that Blast106 was the station they listened to most and in particular in the age range of 19-25 (which is our core student & youth community age) 37% declared Blast106 was the station they listened to most.

While we do not believe that listenership, reach and popularity are the be-all-and-end-all, they do represent significant support from our target community of students and young people.

(d) Do you consider that your proposed changes would be prejudicial to the access by members of that community to the facilities used for the provision of the service and for training in the use of those facilities?

NO
please explain why below

We have not proposed any changes to the Key Commitments section dealing with Access & Participation.

Our proposed changes do not diminish our commitment to access, accountability or social gain for our community.

For example, we have removed entirely the reference to different membership grades as we have found that we did not need to introduce these and we did not need to introduce a membership fee and we believe that retaining this in the Key Commitments is discriminatory.

We have also simplified the wording of how our community can participate in the democratic management of the station and provided clarity that all members, not just volunteers can participate in the management of the station.

(A member includes everyone who has joined Blast106 whether they are actively volunteering at the time or not. E.g., a student could be away for a year's placement and cannot actively volunteer but they continue to be a member).

(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?

NO
please explain why below

Our proposed changes do not diminish our commitment to social gain for our community.

Indeed there are only a few minor alterations to the wording of the Social Gain section of the existing Key Commitments where we are mainly removing references to things which are already covered in other sections of the Key Commitments (such as in Programming).

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 (www.ofcom.org.uk/radio/ifi/rbl/commun_radio/crri/crregulation/).

Our proposed changes are intended to provide greater clarity and simplicity in respect of our

Key Commitments and set minimum targets which are not to date contained in the existing Key Commitments.

The review into our current Key Commitments also sought out to analyse those aspects of what we do well and make us distinctive from other radio operators in the region. It also recognises that in terms of participation of volunteers, new technology can be used to support physical interaction and participation (social networking, VOIP etc).

We feel that this will strengthen and enhance the access that our community can have to actively engage with the station using traditional broadcast promotion along with interactive and social networking communications.

The proposed changes more accurately reflect the role that the station actually plays today, which is much greater and varied than initially envisaged and much more determined by our community and volunteers than the original key commitments which were negotiated between Ofcom and a small group of Company Directors.

We believe the station has grown and developed over the past 5 years and the support shown by our community demonstrates that the development of the station has been to their needs, interests and tastes.

We feel the proposed changes continues that development.

Amended July 2013

Annex 6

Blast 106's existing Key Commitments

Station name	Blast 106
Community to be served	Students living in Greater Belfast from Queens University, the University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College and young people living, working or studying in Greater Belfast.
Licence area	Greater Belfast (up to a 5km radius from the transmission site)
Frequency	106.4 MHz

Character of service

Blast 106 will establish a community owned Student & Youth Radio Station that will Educate, Inform, Entertain and Represent the entire student and youth community of Belfast. Programmes will be made by students and young people themselves and will reflect their tastes and interests.

Programming

- Daytime output will initially typically comprise 90% music and 10% speech, developing over time to 80% music and 20% speech ('speech' excludes advertising, programme/promotional trails and sponsor credits).
- Music output will be very varied but will be directed to the tastes and interests of volunteers and the community served. The station will offer an opportunity to hear alternative music genres and world music and will also cater for the tastes and needs of minority student groups including Ethnic Minority cultures. It will also provide a forum to showcase new local talent and bands.
- Speech output will include debate and discussion on issues of specific interest and importance to students and young people locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Blast 106 will provide local student news and coverage of student sports events. The station will produce documentaries and will cover developments in student politics.
- The primary broadcast language will be English with other community languages featuring subject to volunteer/ community demand and available resources.
- During term-time the service will typically be live for at least 12 hours per day (weekdays) and 8 hours per day (weekends). (Live programming may include pre-recorded inserts, if applicable). The majority of the output will be locally produced.

Social gain objectives

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of community radio services that they are local services provided primarily (a) for the good of members of the public, or of particular communities, and (b) in order to deliver social gain, rather than primarily for

commercial reasons or for the financial or other material gain of the individuals involved in providing the service.”

“(a) the provision of sound broadcasting services to individuals who are otherwise underserved”

- Blast 106 will be aimed at the student and youth population of Belfast. Programming will include output catering for the tastes and needs of minority student groups.

“(b) the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion”

- Blast 106 will provide local student news and student politics as they relate to and affect the local student community and will promote debate and discussion throughout, with programming that is interactive with the community served through phone-in, text-in, email and post.

“(c) the provision (whether by means of programmes included in the service or otherwise) of education or training to individuals not employed by the person providing the service”

- Blast 106 will provide training courses in presentation, production and editing to a minimum of 250 people.
- Member’s training will be developed to meet their individual training needs and aspirations with additional “refresher” sessions available for members to brush up on their skills and knowledge.
- Blast 106 will place a specific training emphasis on preparing people for careers in the audiovisual creative industries.

“(d) the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of the links within it”

- Blast 106 will allow students from across the higher education sector in Belfast to work together on programmes and projects.
- It will have a Marketing Team whose job it will be to conduct surveys and information gathering activities to develop further its understanding of what the target community wants from their station.
- The station will communicate details of events and activities taking place locally as well as promoting clubs, societies and opportunities of interest to the community served. Blast 106 will also work with local community organisations to promote their events, activities and services.

Additional social gain objectives:

- Blast 106 will promote the ethos of social enterprise, the value of the social economy and opportunities for students to become involved in local community organisations and become active civic volunteers.
- The station will, subject to resources, disseminate information from local authorities and government agencies regarding student entitlements and services and educational opportunities for young people. It will broadcast pre-recorded Public Service Announcements of relevance to the student community (e.g. Crime

Prevention, Sexual Health and Alcohol Awareness), subject to available resources.

- The station will promote economic development and job creation.
- Blast 106 will seek to integrate the students of Queens University, University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College as part of the wider youth community of Greater Belfast.
- Blast 106 will seek to support and create strong linkages with other community media initiatives and representative bodies.

Access and participation

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of every community radio service that members of the community it is intended to serve are given opportunities to participate in the operation and management of the service."

- Blast 106 will hold open training days on an ongoing basis.
- All students will have access to the facilities and extensive training will be given in all areas including background roles.
- Blast 106 will work to ensure that everyone regardless of ability/disability will be able to participate in the life of the station and will take whatever steps are reasonable to ensure that any barriers to participation are overcome.
- Blast 106 will have a minimum of 250 members.

Accountability to the target community

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of every community radio service that, in respect of the provision of that service, the person providing the service makes himself accountable to the community that the service is intended to serve."

- Blast 106 may establish different levels of membership so as to be as inclusive as possible while reflecting that the primary focus of the station is the student community of Belfast Metropolitan College, University of Ulster and Queens University. Blast 106 may also establish different levels of membership based on the payment of a membership fee so as to ensure that people who do not pay the membership fee are not excluded from participation in the station.
- Blast 106 will have a governing Council that meets at least once per academic semester with one of these meetings serving as the Annual General Meeting. All members of Blast 106 are members of Council. All Members may attend Council meetings and speak but entitlement to vote and run for any of the elected positions will be determined by the grade of Membership. The Council will publish its Minutes.
- There will be a variety of elected and appointed 'Officer' positions, as determined by the members, as well as 'Teams' which support these officers.
- The Council will elect 6 members (with at least one from each of the three academic institutions) to be their representatives who together with the volunteer directors of Belfast Student Radio Limited form the Executive Committee of Blast 106.

- The Executive shall meet at least 3 times per year and will publish its minutes for all members of Council to read and submit their views. The Executive will submit a report on its activities to each meeting of Council.
- Blast 106 will have a published complaints procedure for both members of the station and for the general public.

**All material in italics is direct quotations from the Community Radio Order 2004*

July 2009



Annex 7

Blast 106's key commitments showing proposed changes

Station name	Blast 106
Community to be served	Students living in Greater Belfast from Queens University, the University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College and young people living, working or studying in Greater Belfast.
Licence area	Greater Belfast (up to a 5km radius from the transmission site)
Frequency	106.4 MHz

Character of service

Blast 106 will establish a community owned Student & Youth Radio Station that will Educate, Inform, Entertain and Represent the entire student and youth community of Belfast. Programmes will be made by students and young people themselves and will reflect their tastes and interests.

Programming

- ~~Daytime output will initially typically comprise 90% music and 10% speech, developing over time to 80% music and 20% speech~~ Daytime output when taken as a whole (6am to 7pm) during term time will typically average 85% music and 15% speech; and outside of term time will typically average 90% music and 10% speech ('speech' excludes advertising, programme/promotional trails and sponsor credits).
- ~~Music output will be very varied but will be directed to the tastes and interests of volunteers and the community served. The station will offer an opportunity to hear alternative music genres and world music and will also cater for the tastes and needs of minority student groups including Ethnic Minority cultures. It will also provide a forum to showcase new local talent and bands~~ For the avoidance of doubt, variety shall be defined as no song typically being played more than once on any one programme (with exception of charity records and Christmas music) and the station ensuring that the music database available for volunteers to choose from in presenting their programmes is typically greater than 3,000 songs.
- ~~The weekly schedule will offer an opportunity to hear alternative music genres and will also provide a forum to showcase new local talent and bands. For the avoidance of doubt, such programming will typically be featured in evenings and/or weekends.~~
- ~~The station will facilitate programming by minority student groups and ethnic minority groups in response to demand from such groups and the capacity of those groups to create the programming in accordance with our Character of Service which states that "programmes will be made by students and young people themselves". For the avoidance of doubt, such programming will typically be featured in evenings and/or weekends.~~

- ~~Speech output will include debate and discussion on issues of specific interest and importance to students and young people locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Blast 106 will provide local student news and coverage of student sports events. The station will produce documentaries and will cover developments in student politics.~~
- Speech output will include issues of interest to students and young people, as editorially determined by Blast106 Limited. Where appropriate this will include debate and discussion (on and off air) making use of new technological and social media developments to be interactive with our community.
- When student news stories occur, which would be considered by the station to be of interest and relevance to local students, Blast 106 will feature these at appropriate times in the schedule. The extent of coverage shall be editorially determined by Blast106 Limited.
- When key student sporting events take place Blast 106 will provide coverage of these at appropriate times in the schedule. The extent of coverage shall be editorially determined by Blast106 Limited.
- When there are developments in student politics (eg elections of sabbatical officers or major government policy initiatives) Blast 106 will provide coverage of these at appropriate times in the schedule. The extent of coverage shall be editorially determined by Blast106 Limited.
- The weekly schedule will include pre-recorded and documentary style programming.
- ~~The station will broadcast a news bulletin at least 4 times per day, weekdays, between 6am and 9pm. For the avoidance of doubt this will typically comprise of at least 1 in-house produced news bulletin per weekday, subject to the availability of volunteers, complemented by bulletins provided by external news agencies.~~
- The primary broadcast language will be English with other community languages featuring subject to volunteer/ community demand and available resources.
- During term-time the service will typically be live for at least 12 hours per day (weekdays) and 8 hours per day (weekends), 76 hours across the week. Outside of term-time the service will typically be live for at least 40 hours across the week. (Live programming may include pre-recorded inserts, if applicable). The majority of the output will be locally produced.

Social gain objectives

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of community radio services that they are local services provided primarily (a) for the good of members of the public, or of particular communities, and (b) in order to deliver social gain, rather than primarily for commercial reasons or for the financial or other material gain of the individuals involved in providing the service."

"(a) the provision of sound broadcasting services to individuals who are otherwise underserved"

- Blast 106 will be aimed at the student and youth population of Belfast primarily aged 18-30. ~~Programming will include output catering for the tastes and needs of minority student groups.~~

“(b) the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion”

- ~~Blast 106 will provide local student news and student politics as they relate to and affect the local student community and will promote debate and discussion throughout, with programming that is interactive with the community served through phone-in, text-in, email and post.~~
- Blast 106 will promote interaction between our station and our community throughout including where appropriate debate and discussion on issues of interest and importance. Interaction will be available via a variety of methods and may include phone-in, text-in, email, post, twitter, facebook, snapchat and other methods resulting from technological and social media advances. For the avoidance of doubt, issues of interest and importance to our community and the extent of coverage shall be editorially determined by Blast106 Limited.

“(c) the provision (whether by means of programmes included in the service or otherwise) of education or training to individuals not employed by the person providing the service”

- Blast 106 will provide training courses in presentation, production and editing to a minimum of 250 people.
- Member's training will be developed to meet their individual training needs and aspirations with additional “refresher” sessions available for members to brush up on their skills and knowledge.
- Blast 106 will place a specific training emphasis on preparing people for careers in the audiovisual creative industries.

“(d) the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of the links within it”

- Blast 106 will allow students from across the higher education sector in Belfast to work together on programmes and projects.
- It will have a Marketing Team whose job it will be to conduct surveys and information gathering activities to develop further its understanding of what the target community wants from their station.
- The station will communicate details of events and activities taking place locally as well as promoting clubs, societies and opportunities of interest to the community served. Blast 106 will also work with local community organisations to promote their events, activities and services.

Additional social gain objectives:

- Blast 106 will promote the ethos of social enterprise, the value of the social economy and opportunities for students to become involved in local community organisations and become active civic volunteers.

- The station will, subject to resources, disseminate information from local authorities and government agencies regarding student entitlements and services and educational opportunities for young people. It will broadcast pre-recorded Public Service Announcements of relevance to the student community (e.g. Crime Prevention, Sexual Health and Alcohol Awareness), subject to available resources.
- The station will promote economic development and job creation.
- Blast 106 will seek to integrate the students of Queens University, University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College as part of the wider youth community of Greater Belfast.
- Blast 106 will seek to support and create strong linkages with other community media initiatives and representative bodies.

Access and participation

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of every community radio service that members of the community it is intended to serve are given opportunities to participate in the operation and management of the service."

- Blast 106 will hold open training days on an ongoing basis.
- All students will have access to the facilities and extensive training will be given in all areas including background roles.
- Blast 106 will work to ensure that everyone regardless of ability/disability will be able to participate in the life of the station and will take whatever steps are reasonable to ensure that any barriers to participation are overcome.
- Blast 106 will have a minimum of 250 members.

Accountability to the target community

Community Radio Order 2004: "It is a characteristic of every community radio service that, in respect of the provision of that service, the person providing the service makes himself accountable to the community that the service is intended to serve."

- ~~Blast 106 may establish different levels of membership so as to be as inclusive as possible while reflecting that the primary focus of the station is the student community of Belfast Metropolitan College, University of Ulster and Queens University. Blast 106 may also establish different levels of membership based on the payment of a membership fee so as to ensure that people who do not pay the membership fee are not excluded from participation in the station.~~
- ~~Blast 106 will have a governing Council that meets at least once per academic semester with one of these meetings serving as the Annual General Meeting. All members of Blast 106 are members of Council. All Members may attend Council meetings and speak but entitlement to vote and run for any of the elected positions will be determined by the grade of Membership. The Council will publish its Minutes~~
- ~~There will be a variety of elected and appointed 'Officer' positions, as determined by the members, as well as 'Teams' which support these officers.~~

- ~~The Council will elect 6 members (with at least one from each of the three academic institutions) to be their representatives who together with the volunteer directors of Belfast Student Radio Limited form the Executive Committee of Blast 106.~~
- ~~The Executive shall meet at least 3 times per year and will publish its minutes for all members of Council to read and submit their views. The Executive will submit a report on its activities to each meeting of Council.~~
- Blast106 will hold a full members meeting each academic semester to which all members may attend, speak and vote irrespective of whether they are active volunteers at the time.
- Blast 106 will have a governing Council that meets at least once per academic semester. The Council will consist of the voluntary Directors and a minimum of 6 members of which 3 will be students or alumni of each of the 3 academic institutions (Queens University, University of Ulster and Belfast Metropolitan College). These 'Council Members' will normally be elected but may be co-opted to ensure continued representation from each of the 3 academic institutions.
- The Council will submit a report on its activities to each full members meeting.
- There will be a variety of elected and appointed "Officer" positions, as determined by the members, as well as "Teams" which support these officers.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the duration and dates of academic terms and semesters as applicable to these Key Commitments shall be defined by the teaching weeks schedule as published by The Queen's University of Belfast.
- Blast 106 will have a published complaints procedure for both members of the station and for the general public.

**All material in italics is direct quotations from the Community Radio Order 2004*

July 2009; incorporating proposed changes, December 2014

Annex 8

Other commercial and community radio stations in the Belfast area

Commercial radio stations

Citybeat

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/html/radio-stations/analogue/al000042ba1citybeat.htm>

Cool FM

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/html/radio-stations/analogue/al000121ba1coolfmdowntownradio.htm>

Downtown Radio

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/html/radio-stations/analogue/al000120ba1downtownradio.htm>

U105

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/html/radio-stations/analogue/al000295ba1u105.htm>

Community radio stations

Belfast FM

This service has not yet commenced broadcasting. Its application, which includes its draft key commitments, can be found here:

<http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/radio/community/apps/2012/1012546/belfast-fm.pdf>

Hollywood FM

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/html/radio-stations/community/cr000131ba1hollywoodfm.htm>

Raidió Fáilte

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/html/radio-stations/community/cr000044ba2raidíofáilte.htm>

For the purpose of this consultation, we consider that there are no other relevant local commercial or community radio services within Blast 106's licensed area. However, it is recognised that due to the nature of the propagation of radio waves, the signals of other of neighbouring radio services may be audible in the Belfast area.