

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

Ian

**Surname:**

Sherwood

**Representing:**

Self

**Additional comments:**

I think this is a very common sense move by Now Digital and off com. THE change of frequency will hopefully help coverage significantly. I am sorry that more of the services from the Severn Estuary multiplex are not being transferred to the new S E wales multiplex. It is regrettable i think that mountain fm is not going to its seems be on the new service. With the serving of the Heads of the Valleys area being a major part of the new plan it is a shame that there is not a radio station that originates from the heads of the valleys themselves. I do hope that there will be further transmitters added at a later stage, specifically Mynydd Baden for bridgend, Heolgarrig for the Heads of the Valleys and Rhondda for the Rhondda Valley

**Question 1:Do you think that allowing Now Digital to extend the coverage area of its Cardiff & Newport local radio multiplex licence to include the Heads of the South Wales Valleys area would unacceptably narrow the range of DAB programme services available in the Cardiff and Newport area? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

No

**Question 2:Do you think that allowing Now Digital to extend the coverage area of its Cardiff & Newport local radio multiplex licence to include the Heads of the South Wales Valleys area would be calculated to maintain or promote the development of digital sound broadcasting in the UK otherwise than by satellite? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

Yes

I note that in the original plans there was supposed to be a separate multiplex for the Heads of the valleys. It seems that this is not feasible so this is probably the most common sense solution.

**Question 3: Do you think that Now Digital's proposals for providing coverage of the Heads of the South Wales Valleys area are satisfactory? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

I note that there is no current plan to broadcast the changed multiplex from the heolgerrig transmitter near merthyr tydfil which currently broadcasts BBC national dab and is in a future transmitter plan from the national commercial operator Digital 1 to use for the D1 DAB multiplex sometime in the future. I am surprised however that heolgerrig is not being used at this stage.

I note that the current MXR Severn Estuary /transmitters at Aberdare, Ebbw Vale and Abergavenny will be used for the new multiplex and from what i can see they will be transmitted at 360 watt under the new plan which is at a higher power than these transmitters are currently used for the soon to close MXR Severn Estuary multiplex. . Knowing the difficult topography of The heads of the alleys road however i do wonder whether these 3 transmitters are sufficient to serve this area.

**Question 4: Do you consider that Now Digital has the ability to maintain its local radio multiplex service if its request is granted? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

**Question 5:(For relevant programme service providers and local radio multiplex operators only) Do you consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect your rights and interests in the event that Now Digital is permitted to extend coverage to include the Heads of the South Wales Valleys area, and change the frequency of its multiplex service?:**

**Question 6: Do you consider that there any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, the request from Now Digital? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

I am assuming since Now digital have maintained this multiplex for a significant period hopefully they would be able to maintain this. It would seem this is a common sense solution which should improve reception within the current service area, hopefully be fairly good within the new service area and hopefully have to scope to increase the Radio stations available at some point in the future.