
Localness on commercial radio

Approved areas in Scotland and Wales

STATEMENT

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1. Overview

A local commercial analogue radio station which is required to broadcast a proportion of programming that is 'locally-made' must do so either from a location within the area it broadcasts to, or from elsewhere within an area approved by Ofcom. This document sets out our decisions on approved areas in Scotland and Wales.

What we have decided

We have approved:

- two areas in Scotland – northern Scotland and southern Scotland; and
- all of Wales as a single approved area (see map at Annex 1).

These decisions will give local commercial analogue radio stations in Scotland and Wales greater flexibility over where they make their required hours of 'locally-made' programmes, and should strengthen their ability to deliver a service which is relevant to the local area they broadcast to.

- 1.1 Ofcom must secure that local analogue (i.e. FM and AM) commercial radio stations provide an appropriate amount of:
 - programmes including local material; and
 - locally-made programmes.
- 1.2 The law allows for locally-made programmes to be made either from a location within the area a local commercial station broadcasts to, or from elsewhere within a wider area approved by Ofcom (known as an 'approved area').
- 1.3 Following an initial consultation on new proposals in June 2018¹ (the 'First Consultation'), in October 2018 we issued a statement and further consultation document² (referred to in this document as the 'Statement' and 'Second Consultation', as relevant). The Statement made decisions regarding the localness guidelines³ and approved areas for England and Northern Ireland. The Second Consultation set out proposals to maintain the current position in respect of approved areas in Scotland, and to adopt revised areas in Wales, in light of the responses we had received to the First Consultation.
- 1.4 Following careful consideration of the 18 responses to the Second Consultation, and taking account of responses to the First Consultation on this specific subject, we have decided to approve the following areas:

¹ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/115113/consultation-localness-radio.pdf

² https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/124435/statement-further-consultation-localness-commercial-radio.pdf

³ <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio-and-on-demand/information-for-industry/radio-broadcasters/localness>

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- In Scotland – North of Scotland and South of Scotland
- In Wales – Wales.

1.5 These new approved areas for Scotland and Wales are shown in the map at Annex 1, and specified (by listing the approved area for each local licence) in Annex 2 to this statement.

2. Background

Statutory requirements

- 2.1 The Broadcasting Act 1990 places a general duty on Ofcom regarding local analogue (FM and AM) commercial radio, and a specific duty regarding each local service that we license. The general duty is that we must do all we can to secure the provision of a range and diversity of local services⁴. The specific duty is that when we run a competitive licence award process and select the winner, the licence we issue for the winner must contain appropriate conditions to secure that the character of the service, as proposed by the licence holder when making his application, is maintained during the licence period⁵. There are also statutory provisions under which changes to the character of service during the licence period can be made if certain conditions are met. Each station's character of service is captured in a part of the licence called the Format.
- 2.2 In addition to these duties, Ofcom is also required by law⁶ to carry out our functions relating to local services in the manner that we consider is best calculated to secure that local analogue commercial radio stations provide:
- programmes consisting of or including local material; and
 - locally-made programmes
- to the extent (if any) that Ofcom considers appropriate, and to provide guidance as to how these statutory requirements should be met.
- 2.3 'Local material' is defined in the legislation as material which is of particular interest to those living or working within (or within part of) the area or locality for which [a given local radio service] is provided, or to particular communities living or working within that area or locality (or part of it). 'Material' is further defined as including news, information and other spoken material and music.
- 2.4 'Locally-made programmes' are defined in the legislation as programmes which are "made wholly or partly at premises in the area or locality for which that service is provided or, if there is an approved area for the programmes, that area."
- 2.5 In carrying out our functions relating to local commercial radio services we must comply with our general duties set out in section 3 of the Communications Act 2003. These include our duty to secure the availability throughout the UK of a wide range of radio services which (taken as a whole) are both of high quality and calculated to appeal to a variety of tastes and interests⁷, and our duty to have regard when carrying out our functions to the

⁴ Section 85(2)(b) Broadcasting Act 1990

⁵ Section 106(1) Broadcasting Act 1990

⁶ Section 314 Communications Act 2003

⁷ Section 3(2)(c) Communications Act 2003.

principles under which regulatory activities should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent and targeted only at cases in which action is needed⁸.

Localness guidelines

2.6 Following the Statement, the localness guidelines have been amended to include the following new minimum expectations as regards the volume of locally-made programming each local station should provide, when these programmes should be scheduled, and the provision of local material:

- Local FM stations that provide local news at regular intervals throughout the day should air at least three hours of programming each weekday between 6am and 7pm which has been made in the local (or approved) area.
- Local FM stations that provide local news only at breakfast and drivetime should air at least six hours of programming each weekday between 6am and 7pm which has been made in the local (or approved) area.
- Any station whose character of service requires it to provide a local service should include, as well as the level of local news specified in its Format, sufficient other local material consistent with the guidelines to deliver the required character of service.

Approved areas in Scotland and Wales

2.7 In relation to any given local commercial radio station, a locally-made programme is defined (in statute) as one which is made at premises in the area the station broadcasts to, or at premises located somewhere else but still within a larger area which includes the station's broadcast area. The latter is called an 'approved area', because it must be approved by Ofcom (after consultation). The concept of approved areas was established in 2010 to give stations greater flexibility over where they make their programmes – in practice, it has enabled the larger commercial radio groups to rationalise the number of studios they operate, and stations in relatively close geographical proximity to share their locally-made programmes (providing the output can still be considered to be locally-relevant to listeners in each of the individual broadcast areas).

2.8 An approved area relates to an individual station, which means that every local station can, in theory, have a different approved area. Historically Ofcom has taken a mixed approach, whereby it first approved a set of areas such that every station in a defined geographical area of the UK had the same approved area⁹, but subsequently permitted different

⁸ Section 3(3) Communications Act 2003.

⁹ The only exceptions to this were Greater London and northern Scotland. Any stations located in these areas would need to ask Ofcom to approve an area on a case-by-case-basis.

approved areas for some stations (for example, where two or more stations were located in more than one of the already approved areas) in response to requests from licensees.

2.9 The current approved areas in Scotland and Wales¹⁰ are as follows:

- Glasgow & South West Scotland
- Edinburgh & The Borders
- North & Mid Wales
- West Wales
- South Wales

There is/are no approved area(s) which cover northern Scotland.

2.10 These current approved areas are shown in Figure 8 of the First Consultation.

First Consultation

2.11 In our First Consultation, we proposed to amend these approved areas to the following new areas:

- a single ‘South of Scotland’ approved area, representing a combination of the ‘Glasgow & South West Scotland’ and ‘Edinburgh & The Borders’ approved areas;
- a new ‘North of Scotland’ approved area; and
- a single approved area for the whole of Wales, representing a combination of the ‘North & Mid Wales’, ‘West Wales’ and ‘South Wales’ approved areas.

2.12 These proposed new areas are shown in Figure 11 of the First Consultation, and were designed broadly to match the ITV regions, on the basis that these are an already well-established framework for the delivery of sub-UK-wide broadcast programming, which both audiences and advertisers have a degree of familiarity with.

2.13 We said that larger approved areas would give licensees greater freedom to determine where to locate their studios and make their content, and that this flexibility would enable radio groups which own multiple licences in the same region to put more resources into programme making and less into the “bricks and mortar” costs of maintaining separate local studios.

2.14 Overall, we considered that these proposals were an appropriate and proportionate approach to securing the local content and character of local radio services, on the basis that any stations required by their Formats to be local in character would continue to be expected to provide enough local material (i.e. programme material of local relevance, such as travel, what’s ons etc.), as well as local news, to maintain this local character, regardless of where their programmes come from.

¹⁰ For a small number of local licences in Wales, Ofcom has approved a ‘bespoke’ area which is different to those listed here.

- 2.15 However, having taken account of the cultural and linguistic arguments made in some of the responses to the original consultation, and advice from Ofcom's Advisory Committees for each of Scotland and Wales, we decided in October 2018 to launch the Second Consultation, which set out revised proposals for approved areas in each of Scotland and Wales.
- 2.16 The next Section of this statement sets out what these revised proposals were, what respondents to the Second Consultation said, and what we have decided with regards to approved areas in Scotland and Wales.

Impact assessment and equality impact assessment

- 2.17 The First Consultation assessed the potential impacts of the proposed approved areas in Scotland and Wales which we have now decided to approve. Nothing raised in the responses to either the First Consultation or Second Consultation has led us to change our position regarding these impact assessments.
- 2.18 In reaching our decision on approved areas in Wales, we have paid due regard to Ofcom's Welsh Language Standards on Policy Making as outlined in our compliance notice. The policy making standards are applicable at the point where they will have an impact regardless of where the policy decision is made. We anticipate that none of the changes to approved areas in Wales will have any effect on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, or in treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

3. Consultation and conclusion

What we proposed in the Second Consultation

- 3.1 Our revised proposals for approved areas in Scotland and Wales were as follows:
- maintaining the current approved areas of ‘Glasgow & South West Scotland’ and ‘Edinburgh & The Borders’ in southern Scotland;
 - maintaining the current position of there not being any approved areas in northern Scotland;
 - maintaining the current ‘North & Mid Wales’ approved area, and;
 - approving a new ‘South Wales’ area, comprised of the current approved areas of ‘South Wales’ and ‘West Wales’.
- 3.2 These revised proposed approved areas were shown in Annex 3 to the Second Consultation.

What respondents said

- 3.3 Opinion was divided between (i) the commercial radio broadcasters and their trade body, Radiocentre, who strongly opposed any attempt to increase the number of, or decrease the size of, the areas proposed in the First Consultation; (ii) three political stakeholders in Wales who opposed our revised proposals for the opposite reason (i.e. that the two proposed areas in Wales are still too large); and (iii) a small number of other stakeholders (all but one in Scotland) who supported our revised proposals.

General arguments raised

- 3.4 Radiocentre said that we should reconsider our proposals, and instead revert to a single all-Wales approved area and move to a single all-Scotland approved area. Their reasons for this were as follows:
- our proposal to revert to smaller approved areas in Scotland and Wales was logically inconsistent with the case we made in our Statement for shifting our regulatory approach from the regulation of local studios (as a proxy for the provision of local content) to a greater focus on the provision of locally-relevant output, and was therefore inconsistent with the decisions we have already made on approved areas in England and Northern Ireland;
 - our decision to consult further was based on a very small number of unrepresentative responses, and was not supported by any new evidence; and
 - smaller approved areas in Scotland and Wales will add a regulatory burden on commercial radio stations in those nations, who already face higher transmission costs and lower revenues than stations in England.

Approved areas in Scotland

- 3.5 In relation to our revised proposals for Scotland specifically, seven responses (all from commercial radio companies) were opposed, while four responses (from Ofcom’s Advisory Committee for Scotland (‘ACS’), the Scottish Government, Stuart McDonald MP and a freelance radio presenter) were in support.
- 3.6 The largest provider of commercial radio services in Scotland, Bauer Media, said that it is the only broadcaster in Scotland who would be affected by our proposals. This is on the basis that it is the only company which currently holds local commercial radio licences in both of our proposed approved areas (i.e. Glasgow & South West Scotland and Edinburgh & The Borders) as well as in northern Scotland, where we proposed not to approve any areas.
- 3.7 Bauer Media strongly opposed our revised proposals, on the grounds that they were inconsistent with our decisions on approved areas in England, and could have a negative impact on the economic viability and output of stations in Scotland. Specifically, they said: “the cultural differences between different parts of Scotland are no greater than those within Approved Areas in England”, and “requiring us to maintain local studios across the country means that money cannot be invested in Scottish content”.
- 3.8 They put forward three options, one of which was a suggestion that we approve the two areas set out in the Second Consultation , but then allow stations to “co-locate and share across Scotland in return for more Scottish programming”. Their other two preferred options were a single approved area for the whole of Scotland, or, failing that, approved areas covering northern and southern Scotland (i.e. as proposed in the First Consultation).
- 3.9 Global Radio, which provides two FM services in Scotland (Heart across the Central Belt, and Smooth in Glasgow¹¹), also highlighted what they considered to be the inconsistencies between our decision in the Statement to approve larger areas in England and our proposal in the Second Consultation to maintain smaller areas in Scotland (and Wales), saying “we do not believe that the linguistic or cultural arguments made apply any more to regions of Scotland and Wales than they do across the new larger approved areas in England”. They added: “by limiting the size of the [approved] areas in [Scotland and Wales], you are limiting broadcasters’ ability to be flexible in how they best deliver for their audiences.”
- 3.10 Four of the smaller commercial radio operators in Scotland¹² submitted very similarly-worded responses, all strongly opposing our revised proposals, while Nation Broadcasting, a company which has only recently entered the commercial radio market in Scotland but is an established operator in Wales (see further below), also strongly opposed our revised proposals.

¹¹ Global’s other main brand, Capital, is also available on FM across the Central Belt, but under a licence held by Communicorp UK.

¹² Central FM, New Wave Media, DC Thomson and Waves Radio.

- 3.11 The key arguments put forward by these respondents were as follows:
- Our revised proposals would reduce flexibility for local stations in Scotland (because they would be forced to maintain studios rather than using new technology to serve different local areas), and this would threaten their viability.
 - They would leave stations in Scotland (especially those in the north of Scotland, for whom we were proposing not to approve any areas) at a disadvantage in relation to stations in other parts of the UK and new digital-only stations.
 - The cultural differences between different localities in Scotland are no greater or more significant than those between different localities in England which are in the same approved area.
- 3.12 As with the other commercial radio stakeholders, their strong preference was for the whole of Scotland to be designated as a single approved area.
- 3.13 The key arguments made in support of our revised proposals were largely the same as those submitted to the First Consultation which had led us to revise our proposals (and, in three of the four cases, were from the same respondents).
- 3.14 The [ACS](#) restated its support for separate approved areas for the western and eastern parts of southern Scotland, on the basis that each area “has significant and distinctive audiences”, while the [Scottish Government](#) reiterated its view that content made in Glasgow should not count as ‘locally-made’ in Edinburgh because the central belt of Scotland is not perceived by audiences as a ‘local’ area. In relation to northern Scotland, though, while agreeing that cultural affinities between the different licence areas are likely to be limited, the Scottish Government recognised that the economics of commercial radio are more challenging there, and implied that it may accept that a single approved area for northern Scotland might be appropriate to ensure “the right balance is struck between commercial viability and the maintenance of distinctive services for different areas”.
- 3.15 [Stuart McDonald MP](#), who, like the ACS and the Scottish Government, had responded to the First consultation, welcomed our revised proposals, saying that “while these areas are still arguably too large, and fail to take into account the distinctiveness of localities within the areas, I agree with the retention of smaller approved areas and the recognition of the distinct nature of the North of Scotland.”
- 3.16 We also took account of another supportive response, the contents of which were submitted in confidence.

Approved areas in Wales

- 3.17 In relation to our proposals for Wales specifically, only one response – from Ofcom’s Advisory Committee for Wales (‘ACW’) – was clearly supportive of our revised proposals. Five other respondents were opposed to our proposals, but for sharply differing reasons. Three members of the Welsh Assembly were opposed to our revised proposals because, in their view, the two proposed new areas were still too large, whereas the two commercial

radio companies who between them own/operate the majority of the commercial radio stations in Wales – Global and Nation Broadcasting – were opposed on the grounds that the areas were too small (i.e. that there should be a single, all-Wales, area rather than two areas).

- 3.18 Ofcom’s Advisory Committee for Wales (ACW) reiterated the view it had finally reached after the first consultation – that allowing the locally-made programming provided by stations in north Wales to be made in Cardiff (which a single all-Wales approved area, as we proposed in the First Consultation, would enable) would “not serve the interests of listeners in north Wales”, on the grounds that “there are significant cultural and linguistic differences between the northern and southern parts of Wales”.
- 3.19 The Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee of the National Assembly for Wales wrote on behalf of the Committee to say that while “the changes that are now being proposed go some way to addressing our concerns”, they remain of the view that there should be two approved areas in south Wales – east and west – rather than just the one we proposed in the Second Consultation (in other words, the current position). This is because the Committee believes that the potential centralisation of production which could result from the reduction in the number of approved areas is likely to have a detrimental impact on the service provided to Welsh-speaking audiences (as production is likely to move out of Welsh-speaking areas and into areas where Welsh is less commonly spoken).
- 3.20 The Assembly Member for Llanelli, Lee Waters, was also opposed to our revised proposals but, like the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, this was because in his view there should continue to be separate approved areas for the western and eastern parts of south Wales in order to protect the existing local radio production centres in Swansea, near his constituency (which he was concerned could be closed down in favour of centralised hubs in Cardiff). He also considered that a single south Wales approved area “will potentially mean a significant decrease in genuinely local content being served to my constituency, and across Wales”, and is “clearly a threat to local journalism”.
- 3.21 Another Assembly Member, Vaughan Gething (Cardiff South and Penarth), shared the same view as his Assembly colleagues, believing that our revised proposals would have a negative impact on local content, local employment and local journalism. He also expressed concern that there did not appear to have been any comment from smaller local radio stations in Wales, although it is not clear which stations he was referring to as Nation Broadcasting, which owns most of the ‘smaller’ local FM licences in Wales, did respond to both Consultations.
- 3.22 As noted in paragraph 3.9, Global Radio, which in Wales provides four FM services (Heart across south Wales, and Capital in the Caernarfon, North Wales coast and Wrexham areas¹³) and two AM services (Smooth in each of Cardiff/Newport and Wrexham), highlighted the apparent inconsistencies between our decision in the Statement to

¹³ Capital is also available on FM in the Cardiff/Newport area, and Heart in north and mid-Wales, but under licences held by Communicorp UK.

approve larger areas in England and our proposals in the Second Statement to maintain smaller areas in Wales (and Scotland), saying “we do not believe that the linguistic or cultural arguments made apply any more to regions of Scotland and Wales than they do across the new larger approved areas in England”. They added: “by limiting the size of the [approved] areas in [Scotland and Wales], you are limiting broadcasters’ ability to be flexible in how they best deliver for their audiences.”

- 3.23 Nation Broadcasting, which holds six local FM licences¹⁴, as well as interests in local DAB multiplexes and digital-only programme services, in Wales, repeated many of the points made by Radiocentre and the smaller commercial radio companies in Scotland in their responses, as outlined above. In relation to Wales specifically, Nation argued that the relatively challenging market conditions (as evidenced by the fact that in 2016 Wales had the smallest local commercial revenue per head of population of any UK nation) suggest that local stations there should not be overly restricted by regulation, and that the case for all of Wales to be a single approved area was “overwhelming”.

Analysis and conclusion

- 3.24 In the Statement, we said that allowing local commercial radio stations flexibility to reduce the amount of locally-made programming they broadcast, and flexibility over where that programming is made, while continuing to require them to deliver their ‘character of service’ through providing an appropriate amount of local material, is an appropriate and proportionate approach to securing the local content and character of local radio services. We reached this view in large part on the basis of audience research which showed that where programmes are made is of less concern to listeners than quality and local relevance.
- 3.25 Our decision to launch the Second Consultation was based on concerns expressed by some stakeholders in both Scotland and Wales that such an approach would not be appropriate there given cultural and linguistic differences between cities/areas. No such arguments were made in relation to cities/areas in England.
- 3.26 While those same stakeholders have reiterated their views in response to the Second Consultation, none has submitted any evidence to support their position. In particular, no arguments were proffered as to why Ofcom should take a different approach to approved areas in Scotland and Wales to that we have already decided to take to approved areas in England and Northern Ireland. Indeed, as Radiocentre and others have pointed out, the arguments made by stakeholders in favour of smaller approved areas are largely based on the belief that the localness of the content broadcast by local commercial radio stations is directly impacted by where that content is made.
- 3.27 As we said in the Statement, while we understand this position, we do not consider that there is sufficient evidence to support continuing to use it as a basis for regulatory

¹⁴ The local licences for each of Bridgend, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Swansea, and a regional licence for South Wales (Nation Radio).

intervention. To that end, we also note that there was no disagreement on the part of respondents in favour of smaller approved areas with the findings from our research – in which the location of presenters was not considered to be as important as the delivery of local material – or our analysis that developments in technology have made it easier than ever to gather and produce local material without having to be physically located in the local area.

- 3.28 Some of the commercial radio companies who responded to the Second Consultation argued that our revised proposals could have a potentially negative impact on local stations in Scotland and Wales in particular, due to the generally more challenging economics faced by those stations. However, we have not placed any particular weight on this argument, as there is significant variability between different stations in terms of their economic viability. Furthermore, while local radio revenue per head in Wales is the lowest of the UK nations, in Scotland it is the highest.
- 3.29 Bauer Media suggested in its response that we should approve the two areas set out in the Second Consultation, but then allow stations to “co-locate and share across Scotland in return for more Scottish programming”. In practice, this would mean approving the whole of Scotland as an approved area for any station who asked, in return for a commitment by that station to “provide programming from and for Scotland throughout weekday daytimes”. Given that our revised localness guidelines are clear that we are satisfied that stations can provide a local service without being required to provide more than a small amount of locally-made programming each day, and that local stations should provide enough local material to maintain their local character, Bauer’s suggestion appears to us to be inconsistent with these guidelines, and we cannot see how it would work in practice.
- 3.30 Taking all of the above into account, we have decided to approve the areas set out in our First Consultation, i.e.
- two approved areas in Scotland – the north of Scotland and the south of Scotland; and
 - one approved area – the whole of Wales – in Wales.
- 3.31 These approved areas are consistent with our original policy intention to broadly match ITV regions on the basis that these are an already well-established framework for the delivery of sub-UK-wide broadcast programming, which both audiences and advertisers have a degree of familiarity with, and we believe they represent a proportionate outcome which is an appropriate reflection of the relevant evidence and consideration of both sets of consultation responses.
- 3.32 Importantly, although these new approved areas give stations in Scotland and Wales the flexibility to provide their locally-made programming further from the area they broadcast to, our recently revised localness guidelines make clear that listeners should still expect a locally-relevant service from their local commercial radio station, irrespective of where the programmes are broadcast from. Indeed, we consider that these changes to our localness regulation should strengthen the ability of local commercial radio stations to deliver the locally-relevant services that listeners expect.

- 3.33 Stations wishing to make changes to their Format which are consistent with the new approved areas will still need to apply for a Format change to effect these changes.
- 3.34 Under the statutory framework, Ofcom is not required to consult on a Format change request from a station that relates only to a request to provide its locally-made programming from any location(s) within the new approved area set out in this document or the Statement.
- 3.35 The localness guidelines currently state that “any station may provide its locally-made programmes from the area it is licensed to serve, or from the studios of any other station(s) whose licensed area(s) are also in the approved area (known as ‘co-location’). The licensed area(s) from which a station may provide its locally-made programmes are specified in its Format.”
- 3.36 Although this has been our general approach since approved areas were first introduced in 2010, we recognise that the statutory scheme does not specify that locally-made programming which is not provided from a station’s licensed area must come from the licensed area of another station in the relevant approved area (as opposed to from anywhere in the approved area).
- 3.37 Alongside publication of this statement, we therefore will be amending the localness guidelines to make clear that that a licensee can, if they so wish, ask for their Format to be amended to refer to their approved area (as well as their own licensed area), rather than a list of licensed areas which are located in their approved area.
- 3.38 As we stated in similar terms when announcing the new approved areas in England, while we consider that the new approved areas in Scotland and Wales are appropriate for the reasons set out in this statement, we also recognise that some licensees may wish to seek approval of a different approved area for their stations, for reasons including the strategic and commercial interests of the radio groups concerned.
- 3.39 For the avoidance of doubt, a licensee who wishes to have a different approved area for its station may at any time submit a request to us to approve a new, bespoke, area. In accordance with the statute, any such requests will need to be consulted on before Ofcom can approve them. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, using the criteria of station size, affinities between the station areas concerned, distance between stations and financial viability, as set out in our current guidance on the regulation of Format changes¹⁵.

Other issues raised by respondents

- 3.40 The smaller commercial radio operators in Scotland (and Nation Broadcasting, which operates in both Scotland and Wales) all argued that Ofcom should advertise further FM local commercial radio licences in Scotland, especially one for Edinburgh, on the basis that opportunities for them to grow are currently limited and an all-digital future is still at least

¹⁵ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/87405/The-regulation-of-Format-changes.pdf

five years away. The ACS also recommended that Ofcom should advertise new FM commercial radio licences of three to five years' duration, on condition that the licensee moves to DAB by the end of that time.

- 3.41 No suitable FM spectrum exists to enable a new local commercial radio licence for Edinburgh to be advertised, but we are considering whether advertising new FM commercial radio licences for other areas in Scotland (for which suitable spectrum is more likely to be available) would be appropriate, given the increasing migration of radio audiences from analogue to digital platforms, and the likelihood that Ofcom shortly will be facilitating the roll-out of small-scale DAB services.
- 3.42 Finally, both Radiocentre and Nation Broadcasting expressed concerns about the decision by ACW to change its view regarding our original proposals.
- 3.43 Ofcom's Nations Advisory Committees are mandated by statute, with the specific purpose to provide advice to Ofcom about the interests and opinions, in relation to communications matters, of persons living in their nation¹⁶. The ACW's responses to the First and Second Consultations are both published on our website¹⁷; the latter explains why the ACW decided to change its position in relation to the approved areas proposals for Wales. The minutes of the meeting at which the ACW's decision to change its position are also published on the Ofcom website¹⁸.

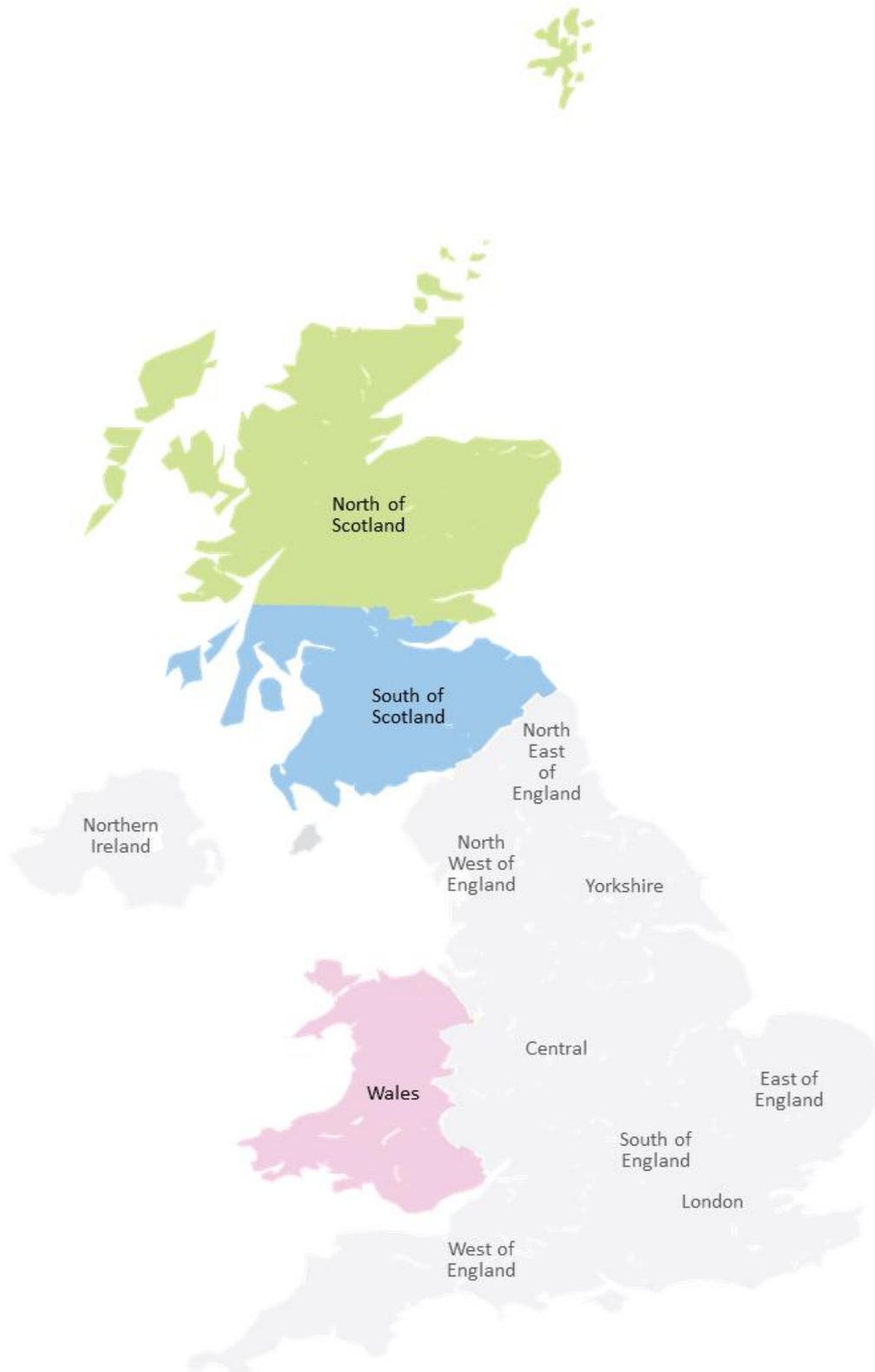
¹⁶ The Terms of Reference for the ACW are at:

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/59384/terms_of_reference_wales.pdf.

¹⁷ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/117548/Advisory-Committee-for-Wales.pdf and https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/130922/Ofcom-Advisory-Committee-for-Wales.pdf

¹⁸ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/132555/ACW-meeting-70-minutes-26-September-2018.pdf

A1. Map of approved areas in Scotland and Wales



A2. Approved areas by licence

A2.1 The following table shows the individual analogue local commercial radio licences that are included in each approved area within Scotland and Wales.

*Denotes AM station. Since 2010, AM services have been able apply to Ofcom to remove all local content and production requirements from their licences (though not all have done so).

<p>North of Scotland (Number of licences: 18)</p>	<p>Aberdeen (Northsound 1) Aberdeen (Original 106) Arbroath & Carnoustie (Radio North Angus) Dundee (Wave FM) Dundee & Perth (Tay FM) Dundee & Perth* (Tay 2) Gairloch & Loch Ewe (Two Lochs Radio) Inverness (MFR2) Inverness (Moray Firth Radio) Kintyre, Islay and Jura (Argyll FM) Oban (Oban FM) Perth (Wave FM) Peterhead (Waves Radio) Pitlochry & Aberfeldy (Heartland FM) Shetland Islands (SIBC) Skye and Lochalsh (Cuillin FM) Ullapool (Lochbroom FM) Western Isles (Isles FM)</p>
<p>South of Scotland (Number of licences: 16)</p>	<p>Ayr* (West Sound) Ayr (West FM) Borders (Radio Borders) Central Scotland (Capital) Central Scotland (Heart)</p>

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	<p>Dumfries & Galloway (West Sound)</p> <p>Dumbarton (Your Radio)</p> <p>Edinburgh (Forth 1)</p> <p>Edinburgh* (Forth 2)</p> <p>Fife (Kingdom FM)</p> <p>Glasgow (Clyde 1)</p> <p>Glasgow* (Clyde 2)</p> <p>Glasgow (Smooth Radio)</p> <p>Glasgow & West Central Scotland (Nation Radio)</p> <p>Helensburgh (Your Radio)</p> <p>Stirling & Falkirk (Central FM)</p>
<p>Wales</p> <p>(Number of licences: 16)</p>	<p>Bridgend (Bridge FM)</p> <p>Caernarfon (Capital)</p> <p>Cardiff & Newport (Capital)</p> <p>Cardiff & Newport* (Smooth Radio)</p> <p>Carmarthenshire (Radio Carmarthenshire)</p> <p>Ceredigion (Radio Ceredigion)</p> <p>North & Mid Wales (Heart)</p> <p>North Wales Coast (Capital)</p> <p>Pembrokeshire (Radio Pembrokeshire)</p> <p>South Wales (Heart)</p> <p>South Wales (Nation Radio)</p> <p>Swansea (Swansea Bay Radio)</p> <p>Swansea* (Swansea Sound)</p> <p>Swansea (The Wave)</p> <p>Wrexham & Deeside (Capital)</p> <p>Wrexham & Deeside* (Smooth Radio)</p>