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**What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:**

Keep nothing confidential

**If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:**

**Ofcom may publish a response summary:**

Yes

**I confirm that I have read the declaration:**

Yes

**Ofcom should only publish this response after the consultation has ended:**

You may publish my response on receipt

**Additional comments:**

**Question 1: Should Original FM Aberdeen Ltd be permitted to make its proposed changes to the Format of Original 106, with particular regard to the statutory criteria set out in Section 2 of this consultation document ? (Section**

## **106 (1A) of the 1990 Broadcasting Act, as amended, relating to Format changes):.**

As a Member of Parliament whose constituency of Gordon in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire is located within the Original 106FM catchment area I would like to make some comments on their application to change the format of their licence.

I understand that Original FM Aberdeen Ltd has applied to Ofcom for a format change which would allow them to move from their licence requirement to play album [track] - led music and allow the introduction of specific genres of music including classic rock and non-contemporary pop-rock hits, while still focusing on their original target demographic market. Representations have been made to me from another local radio station, North East Community Radio (NECR) which operates from nearby Inverurie (less than 15 miles away from Aberdeen). I am aware that Waves Radio based in Peterhead has also made representations to their own MP, Dr. Eilidh Whiteford (Banff and Buchan).

They point out that Original's application for a licence in 2007 was made amid a competitive field and was granted on the basis that they proposed a distinct service from their local competitors. They also express concern that Original has a far more powerful transmitter (10kw) compared to NECR's own which is 1kw and which would therefore severely limit their capacity to compete evenly if the format change to music was granted.

I believe that Original FM has commendably delivered on its commitment to provide local news and content in their four years of existence and I understand their desire to expand the business, particularly in the current economic climate.

My concern is that adequate consideration is given to other local community radio stations operating just outside of the Aberdeen transmission area which have not been referred to in the consultation document but would still reasonably be considered commercial competitors. While these stations are based in Aberdeenshire rather than Aberdeen City, the reality is that Original has a more powerful transmitter which transmits far beyond the City boundaries including to NECR's core target audience. As such I think it is an oversight that Ofcom has not made reference to stations such as NECR and Waves in their consultation document.

This gives the impression that Ofcom has assumed that Original is confined entirely within the City boundaries which is not the case. Given the footprint of Original, Ofcom should have approached NECR and Waves and included them in the original consultation.

I hope that the concerns of these stations can therefore be considered.

I obviously have a constructive relationship with all the radio stations concerned and do not wish to undermine their ambition but I think it is important that Ofcom takes a balanced view.