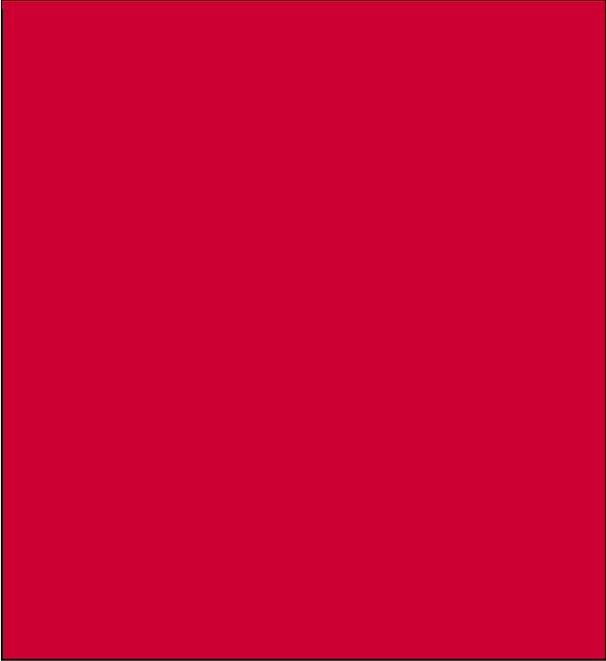


Your response

Question	Your response
<p>Do you agree that for the purposes of where locally-made programming may come from, Ofcom should approve the 'South of England (Bauer)' area in relation to the 12 local licences listed in Section 2 of this document? If you do not agree, please give reasons.</p>	<p>No I do not agree. I was a director of the board of Spirit FM in the late 1990s and early 2000s. This was when David Palmer was the chair of the board. It was evident from my experience that Spirit FM really had the message of the local area. They always took up any issues both big, small, important and unimportant. It is a programme which really has the measure of the importance of a real local radio. I am vice chair of Chichester District Council and chair of Community Affairs on the City Council. It is evident and so important that local people have a place where local issues can be given good publicity in a very sympathetic way. We have a very good local paper,, however being able to speak on a local radio is so important. Spirit is a locally based service that provides radio programming to the Chichester and wider area. It is an important part of the community. If programs are made centrally we will lose local content and the station will become divorced from the community.</p> <p>Spirit FM has always stepped up to cover any issue, event, meetings both entertaining, political and fund raising. Everything from Garden Fetes to new Hosue building and everything inbetween. It covers so many LOCAL issues. This is so important for local people. It would be a tragedy for the community if this large company would deny Chichester and the surround area issues and events no longer being covered and discussed being on a local radio. I urge you to please rethink and let Spirit FM continue to act as a local radio for the people of Chichester and the surrounding areas</p> <p>Spirit has always been generous with its time for the community and its affairs and that is why it is valued. Creating a more regional radio will lose that community base and its relevance to the capital of West Sussex, an ancient historic town, and its environs. Jobs will also be at risk.</p>



For all the above the unique service it gives to so many tens of thousands of local people must be allowed to continue. It must continue to inform, entertain and be a medium for the discussion of local matters. Do not allow this to be halted

While I realise this is being done for commercial and profit motives, however this approach goes against the “spirit” of what local radio stations were set up to do. Please ensure Spirit FM continues. We should have learnt from this pandemic it is: people before profit or politics; community before commerce.