

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

Gavin

**Surname:**

Harper

**Representing:**

Organisation

**Organisation (if applicable):**

Mearns Community Radio LTD

**Email:**

**What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:**

No

**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

**Additional comments:**

**Question 1: Do you think that any of the proposed changes to frequencies and/or licensed areas would unacceptably narrow the range of DAB programme services which will be available in the relevant local radio multiplex area? Please explain the reasons for your view and, if appropriate, specify the local radio multiplex service(s) to which your response relates.:**

Possibly, for instance would Mearns FM be allowed onto dab in Aberdeen as technically its not our coverage area. Choice is already limited due to available frequencies in Aberdeen.

**Question 2: Do you agree that the proposed changes set out in the applications would help to promote the development of local digital sound broadcasting otherwise than by satellite? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

Yes I think they would. Most people wont pay extra for digital as the amount of stations are limited and the quality isn't as good as FM.

**Question 3: Do you agree that the licensees' proposed coverage plans are satisfactory? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

For the North east of Scotland the new plans are ok, However towards Laurencekirk area coverage is patchy and crosses over to Dundee DAB.

**Question 4: Do you consider that the licensees have the ability to maintain their local radio multiplex services if their requests are granted? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

Original 106 was available on dab for a short time but is no longer available. I think the company that owns/run the multiplex could do more to improve services.

**Question 5: Do you consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the rights and interests of stations carried on the multiplexes and of other multiplex operators, in the event that any of the changes to frequencies and/or licensed areas are permitted? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

If the amount of frequencies increase there should be no problems with services staying on digital, however having lost quite a few services because Bauer decided to change services there are not good for the listener.

**Question 6: Do you agree that our additional policy criterion for considering the requests to change frequencies (see paragraph 2.29) is satisfied? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

**Question 7: Do you consider that there any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, any of the licence variation requests which are the subject of this consultation? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

I think that stations who wish to stop serving their local area to broaden coverage on digital to other parts should be looked at carefully so the listener isn't short changed.