

## Consultation response form

Please complete this form in full and return via email to [absolute.radio@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:absolute.radio@ofcom.org.uk) or by post to:

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## Your response

**Do you agree that Ofcom should give its consent to the reductions in AM (medium wave) transmitter coverage proposed by Absolute Radio? If you do not agree, please give reasons.**

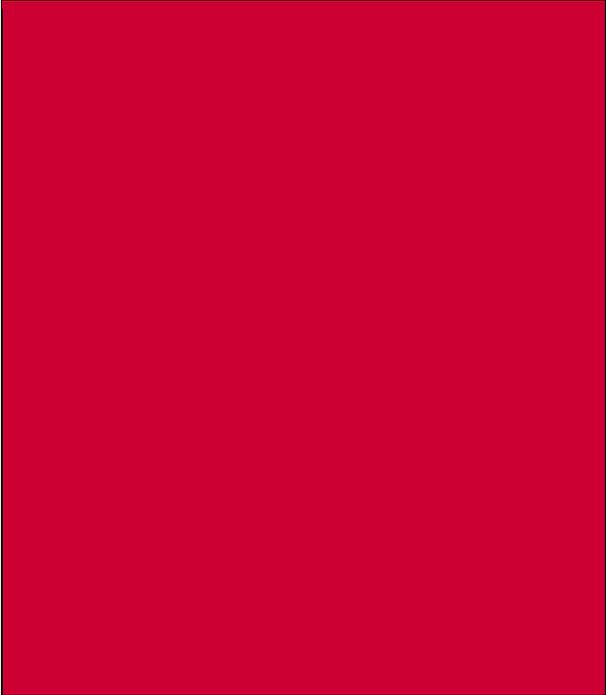
On the whole I disagree with the proposals but admit that a reduced AM service is better than no AM service.

I would like to raise the following points; It's interesting to note that they believe they can cut down the power of their main transmitters by 50% because the level of co channel interference on 1215 KHz is a lot lower that it was 25 years ago.

What they fail to understand is whilst the level of co channel interference is now lower the level of manmade noise/interference across the AM band has increased many times over the years which means for most of us only the stronger AM signals can now be heard clearly. This is due to major failings by regulatory authorities and governments around the world and the problem is just being allowed to get worse.

The shutting down of some of the lower powered stations in SW England, Wallasey, which covers parts of north and northeast Wales, and parts of Scotland means that Absolute will lose many more listeners than the 5% stated because D1 coverage is still patchy in these areas and together with poor or reduced speed internet in these areas many listeners will no longer be able to receive Absolute Radio on any of its platforms except fixed point Freeview Satellite and possibly Cable TV which will isolate many of their listeners who enjoy their programmes whilst driving or out and about using personal radios.

With the above points I think it is not viable for



stations like Absolute to think about closing their AM radio network down until the coverage of the D1 DAB network matches that of the BBC National DAB network.

I strongly suspect that the extortionate costs for any station using the Digital 1 platform is probably the reason why Absolute is looking to cut costs elsewhere. Absolute Radio pays a very high price for its mono only 80Kbps on the D1 platform. These suspicions are aroused by other radio stations leaving the D1 platform to use the SDL or local DAB multiplexes to save on running costs.