

Key Commitments change request form

Community radio station name:	106.7 Ribble FM
Licence number:	CR101582
Licensee (company name):	Ribble FM CIC
Contact name:	Lee Roe
Date of request:	09/03/2023

Details of requested change(s) to Key Commitments

A community radio operator may apply to Ofcom to have the station's Key Commitments amended.

Please complete the table overleaf by including your current Commitment in the left hand column and your proposed revised Commitment in the centre column. In the right hand column please give a brief explanation as to why you wish to make each change.

We also require you to complete a second table which asks you to explain your proposed changes with reference to the statutory framework.

If you do not provide an explanation for your proposed changes and a completed comparison table, Ofcom cannot consider a Key Commitments change.

Please complete this form and return it to: broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk

Existing Commitment (as in your published Key Commitments) Please only include one commitment change per row, and add more rows as necessary into the table.	Proposed revised/new Key Commitment	Reason for proposed change
Music. The main type of music broadcast over the course of each week is: a mix of melodic songs, with an emphasis on classic hits over 20 years old. Specialist music also features.	Music. The main type of music broadcast over the course of each week is: a mix of classic hits and chart music with specialist music during evenings and weekends.	We have found through surveying our demographic – the community has asked us for a more updated music catalogue with less focus on older hits
Speech. The main types of speech output broadcast over the course of each week are: news, farming news, weather, what’s on, community bulletins, interviews and discussions.	Speech. The main types of speech output broadcast over the course of each week are: news, weather, what’s on, community issues, interviews, and discussions.	We have introduced a new Friday talk show called ‘Lancashire Live’ from 12-1pm which includes most subjects affecting the Ribble Valley including farming issues, we also have a local farmer as a presenter on a Tuesday which will cover these issues affecting our rural area – we also encourage all our presenters to talk about local news and views across the area.
The service provides original output for a minimum of seven hours per day.	The service provides original output for 55 hours per week split over 7 days	Our current commitment is to deliver 49 hours across 7 days. We have opted to increase our commitment but across a 7 day period. This is due to the weekend content being produced entirely by volunteers and producing original

		content at the weekend is a little more challenging.
--	--	--

Statutory requirements

Under section 106(1A)(a)-(f) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as amended and modified¹) Ofcom must be satisfied that your proposed changes **meet at least one of the criteria referred to below**.

Please indicate which of these criteria you believe your proposed changes satisfy by deleting YES or NO as applicable and provide an explanation for why you consider a particular criterion is met in the relevant box. You should note that even if Ofcom is of the opinion that your explanation of your proposed changes meets one or more of these criteria, there may still be reasons why Ofcom is unable to consent to the change. When explaining your proposed changes, it is not enough to state that you believe one of the criteria is met. You must also demonstrate *why* you consider that at least one of these criteria is met.

In particular, if Ofcom is not satisfied that the changes would not substantially alter the character of the service (criterion (a) below), Ofcom cannot consent to the change without consulting on your proposals.² If this is the case, we will contact you to confirm that you are happy for us to consult on your proposed changes, and whether you wish to make any changes to your request in light of the need to make it public.

As part of our consideration of your request to make changes to your Key Commitments, we require applicants to provide an explanation for **at least one** of the criteria below.

(a) In your judgement would the proposed changes substantially alter the character of the service?	NO (Please explain why below)
N/A	
(b) Do you consider that the proposed changes would narrow the range of programmes available by way of relevant independent radio services to persons comprising the relevant community?	NO (Please explain why below)
N/A	
(c) Do you believe that there is evidence that, amongst persons comprising that community, there is a significant demand for, or significant support for, the changes that you have proposed?	YES (Please explain why below)
The proposed changes are not reducing the commitment, they are increasing to the Key Commitments and is more reflective of the service we are providing currently.	
(d) Do you consider that your proposed changes would be prejudicial to the access by members of that community to the facilities used for the provision of the service and for training in the use of those facilities?	NO (Please explain why below)
N/A	

¹ As amended by sections 312 and 313 of the Communications Act 2003 and modified by the Community Radio Order 2004.

² Ofcom may approve a change under any of criteria (b), (c), (d) and (e) without consultation, or after a consultation of less than 28 days, if Ofcom considers that to hold a consultation at all, or for 28 days or more, would result in a delay that would be likely to prejudice the interests of the licensee. Ofcom may also remove for the purposes of consultation any confidential information submitted by the licensee.

(e) Do you consider that the proposed changes would be prejudicial to the delivery of social gain resulting from the provision of the service provided under your licence?	NO (Please explain why below)
N/A	

<p>Please set out below any additional information and/or evidence you wish to provide in support of your proposed changes.</p> <p>In particular, you may wish to outline how you think your proposed change(s) fit(s) within Ofcom’s published guidance on changes to Key Commitments (https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/31913/kc-changes-guidance.pdf).</p>
N/A

Data Protection

We require the information requested in this form in order to carry out our licensing duties under the Broadcasting Act 1990, Broadcasting Act 1996 and Communications Act 2003. Please see Ofcom’s [General Privacy Statement](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/foi-dp/general-privacy-statement) (<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/foi-dp/general-privacy-statement>) for further information about how Ofcom handles your personal information and your corresponding rights.

Amended May 2018

Ofcom notes on the request

The request was AGREED, because Ofcom was satisfied in relation to Section 106(1A)(a) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as modified by the Community Radio Order 2004, and further modified by the Community Radio (Amendment) Orders 2010 and 2015) i.e. that the changes would not substantially alter the character of the service, and for the policy reasons given below.

The Licensee is requesting to change its music output requirement to broadcast “a mix of melodic songs, with an emphasis on hits [...]” to “a mix of classic hits and chart music with specialist music during evenings and weekends”. The licensee says that this change is informed by a survey completed by its target community, and it will better reflect its listeners music interests. Ofcom is satisfied that this change will not substantially alter the character of programme service, which is “for people, and in particular the over-35s [...]” because the licensee will continue to broadcast “classic hits” and “specialist music” over the course of the week.

The licensee also proposes to remove the speech requirement to broadcast “farming news” during the week. The Licensee has indicated that it struggles to source information for regular farming news bulletins, and that removing this requirement will provide it with greater flexibility. Ofcom recognises that this change will not substantially alter the character of service as the Licensee will continue to serve the general population of its target area. We expect that where farming news is available and relevant to the community, the Licensee will broadcast this as part of its speech requirement to broadcast community information.

The licensee has also asked to change its requirement for the provision of original output from a daily commitment of 7 hours to a weekly commitment of 55 hours. This change is roughly a 12% increase in the total original output broadcast across the week. The licensee says this increase will provide its volunteers with a greater ability to produce content across the week. Ofcom is satisfied that this change will not substantially alter the character of service because the licensee will provide a modest increase in its original output, with the volunteers spreading content produced across the week.

In terms of our policy criteria, Ofcom is satisfied that the changes will not affect the station’s ability to meet the community radio ‘characteristics of service’ set out in the legislation. We therefore decided to exercise our discretion to approve this change.

May 2023