

Awaz FM

Your details

- Full name: Javed Sattar
- Representing: Organisation
- Organisation (Optional): Awaz FM

Your response

- *Q1. Ofcom would like to run a short, focused community radio licensing round. Our preferred option is to invite applications in areas where we have evidence of demand, after checking that there is a suitable frequency. Do you agree with this approach? If not, tell us why and what your preferred option would be.:*
As a community radio licence holder we are often asked to support groups with the intent of moving from RSL to a Community Radio Licence and agree that the 4th round should be open to groups to submit an intent especially if they consider are from an area no in high demand.
- *Q2. a) New community radio stations: Do you agree with our proposed revised coverage policy in relation to new community radio services? If not, please give us your reasons.:*
As an early licensee holder it was not possible to fully consider what the correct coverage should be. From speaking to other CR stations it is the view point this should be extended. However we must also consider that certain areas would limit capacity for other groups to come on air or be considered for a CR licence. Yes definatly agree as there is a need as highlighted in Q2 that those stations who in the early stages what they thought was a good coverage area has fallen short. So in this regard yes ofcom shoudl go back to the early licence holders and work with the station to increase coverage if it is required.
- *b) Improvements to coverage for existing services: Do you agree with our proposal to consider requests to improve coverage within the licensed area for existing licensed services? If not, please give us your reasons.:*
Yes definatly agree as there is a need as highlighted in Q2 that those stations who in the early stages what they thought was a good coverage area has fallen short. So in this regard yes ofcom shoudl go back to the early licence holders and work with the station to increase coverage if it is required.
- *c) Extensions to coverage for existing services: Do you agree with our proposal to consider requests to extend the existing licensed area of a community radio service into an adjoining area or locality? We will consider such requests against statutory criteria, and propose to use six core considerations to help us decide whether or not to agree to a request. Do you agree with the core considerations we*
In areas of smaller population there may need extensions and thus those early stations who were not sure what there target area would be should be allowed the oppotrtnity to reach areas where they feel they are not serving.

propose to use? If not, please give us your comments.:

- *Q3. Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals regarding its community radio work priorities? If not, please tell us why.:*

From experience over the years we feel Ofcom Community Radio is on par, although few would agree, those who are waiting for an opportunity to apply that this is not the case. Although each round was being considered the gap between one round and the next was far too long. It is hoped this new round can be open to all and not to just geographical areas as before.