

BBC

Dear Ms Williams,

Re: Community radio: future licensing and technical policy

The BBC welcomes Ofcom's consultation as evidence for a thriving and vibrant UK community radio sector. The BBC has no views on the mechanism for future licensing of these services (Question 1), or the coverage levels that such stations should be licensed for (Question 2).

In considering our response to Question 3, on Ofcom's future priorities for work on community radio we note the comments from the BBC at the time of the 2004 review of community radio licensing.

These are summarised in: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-2/comm_radio where Ofcom says:

Frequencies are being sought in the BBC and non-BBC FM bands, consistent with proper protection of existing services. We are pleased to note that the BBC in its response said "we support in principle the suggestion that some community radio services be accommodated within the sub-bands used for BBC services". We note also the BBC's concerns about possible impact on reception of existing services and that it intends to co-operate fully with Ofcom in reviewing the availability of frequencies in the sub-bands used for BBC services.

The BBC's concerns about protection of existing services have not changed since 2004. Any frequency use for new or extended community radio services proposed to be licensed by Ofcom following this consultation should continue to ensure protection of existing FM radio services. On this understanding, the BBC is happy to continue its cooperation with Ofcom on licensing for community radio services which has worked well to the benefit of the entire UK radio sector – service providers and listeners – over the past 10 years.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Clifton

Director, Distribution & Business Development