

Key Commitments change request form

Community radio station name:	EAVA FM
Licence number:	CR000178
Licensee (company name):	St Mathews Community Solution Centre Ltd
Contact name:	Ahmed Rafle
Date of request:	13/03/2020

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
Add extra Key commitment.	During the month of Ramadan we would have dedicated programming for the East African communities of Leicester. Each year we would base programming on demand of these communities. These programmes would comprise of faith based, youth, community, Nasheeds, cohesion, health, sisters & children programs & breaking down barriers.	<p>The reason for this change is majority of East African community are from a Muslim background. We understand within Leicester there are many different East African communities including Indian origin too. But the demand for Ramadan programming during this is welcomed by all communities in Leicester and it is challenging to meet our current key commitments.</p> <p>Also during this period it gives our volunteers a chance for a break as we over 50 committed volunteers throughout the rest of the year.</p>

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?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No. Because character of our service is to sever the community of Leicester and within this community it meets our aims and objectives we have set out.	
(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?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No, as EAVA FM serves the diverse communities and it is welcome by all of the Leicester community from the support we received over the time of our license.	
(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	YES/NO (Please explain why below)

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.

proposed?	
Yes, we have support from all our community members, local authority & local police constabulary. And this has been always demanded when it is time of the year which is mostly listened period of the year.	
(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?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No, absolutely but it rather make more people to accesses during the broadcast and live programs , they have lot of interactive with in programs by participating quizzes , children program participations and because of the special program this increases our training and recruiting more volunteers during that period for special programs.	
(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?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No, as this help deliver social gain and help cohesion within the communities of Leicester. It would open up conversations within the Leicester communities and reduce hate crimes within the community. And as most of the programs is dedicated for whole community to learn from each other it is more educational and platform to exchange views.	

<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.</p>
<p>During the month of Ramadan we intend to recruit volunteers to broadcast the proposed changes and invites many local community leaders to speak live on air about issues within the community.</p>

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) – that the change would not substantially alter the character of the service, and for the policy reasons given below.

EAVA FM is licensed to serve “Leicester’s inner-city new migrant and refugee communities, particularly those from East Africa and related areas.” In this request, it is seeking to add a new Key Commitment that would enable the station to provide specialist religious and other programming during the month of Ramadan each year.

Having carefully considered the request, Ofcom is satisfied that this change will not substantially alter the character of the programme service provided by EAVA FM. The station states in its request that “the majority of [the] East African community [in Leicester] are from a Muslim background.” However, data from the 2011 Census shows that rather less - just over a third - of those living in Leicester who were born in South and Eastern Africa identify as being of the Muslim faith. Nevertheless, we agree that, based on the Census figures, it is likely that specialist Ramadan programming would be of relevance and interest to a significant section of the station’s target audience. We are therefore satisfied that the proposed new programming would have very little impact on EAVA FM’s core character which is to serve Leicester’s inner-city new migrant and refugee communities, particularly those from East Africa and related areas. Outside of the period of Ramadan, the service will continue to be expected to provide programming designed to appeal to members of its target audience who are not of the Muslim faith.

In terms of our policy criteria, we are satisfied that the change will not affect the station’s ability to meet the community radio ‘characteristics of service’ set out in the legislation, and for the reasons set out above, we judge the extent of the impact of the change on the overall character of service to be reasonably low, noting that the applicant believes the introduction of specialist Ramadan programming would increase the community’s participation in the service and enable it to attract new volunteers. We therefore decided to exercise our discretion to approve the change.

October 2020