

Belfast FM

Your details

- Full name: John Rosborough
- Representing: Organisation
- Organisation (Optional): Belfast 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.:*
Belfast FM agrees with Ofcom's preferred option with regard to the further licensing of Community Radio.
- *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.:*
We agree with Ofcom's new revised policy as it gives flexibility and gets away from a 'one size fits all' approach.
- *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, we strongly agree with this proposal. In our case, there is a distinct lack of acceptable coverage within the MCA due to interference and poor signal penetration.
- *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 propose to*
If there is good reason, and not a 'territory grab', then we would agree with this proposal.

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.:*

As a licence holder we would be more supportive of improving coverage for existing stations and the technical planning for small-scale DAB services. Allocating new licences should not have any greater priority than ensuring that existing services have the maximum opportunity for viability and sustainability. Thus we agree with the areas of work proposed, but not necessarily with the stated priorities.