

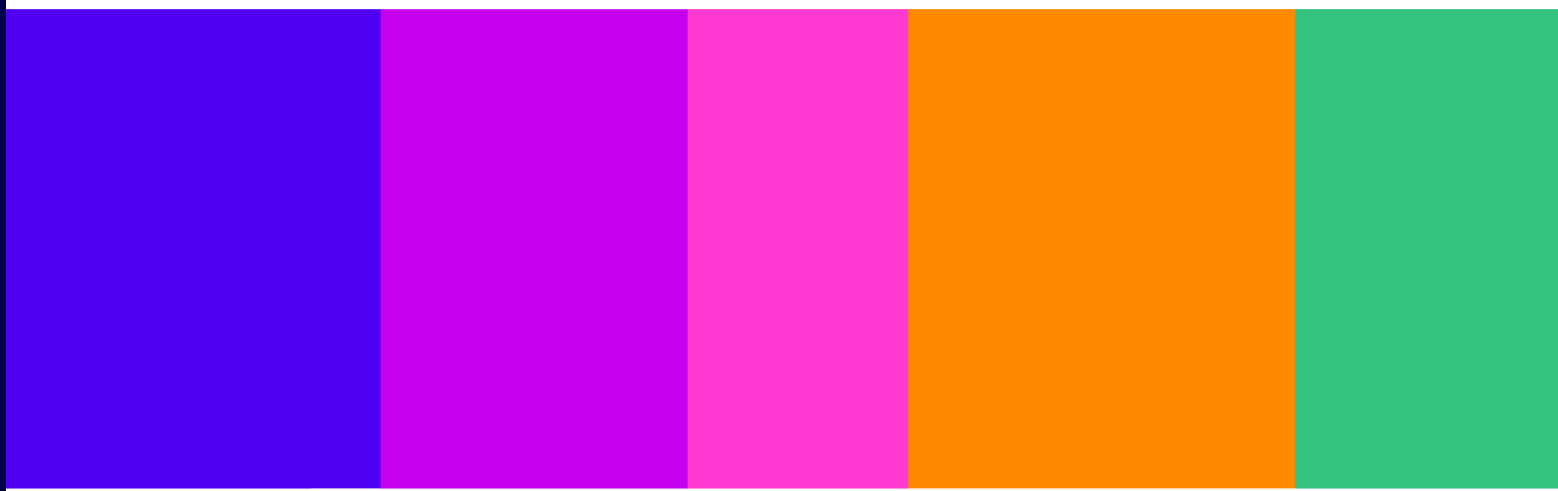
B Radio (Farnborough)

Request to change Key Commitments

Consultation

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Closing date for responses: 25 March 2024



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1. Overview

- 1.1 A community radio station's Key Commitments set out the type of broadcast output it is required to deliver, and form a part of its licence. Key Commitments include a description of the community to be served; a summary of the character of the service; a description of the programme service; social gain objectives; access and participation arrangements; and mechanisms to ensure accountability to the target community. When a proposed change to the Key Commitments would substantially alter the character of the service, the change request is subject to consultation. This document outlines the request received from Rush FM Limited (or "the Licensee"), and Ofcom's preliminary view on the request.

What we are proposing – in brief

Ofcom is considering the Key Commitments change request submitted by Rush FM Limited, which holds a community radio licence for Farnborough broadcasting as 'B Radio (Farnborough)'. The Licensee wishes to make the following changes:

- Change its character of service, such that the target community for the station is *"under-40s who live, work and study in Farnborough and surrounding areas"* instead of *"under-30s who live, work and study in Farnborough and surrounding areas"*.
- Change its music output requirement from *"mainstream music from the 1990s to present day, with some music from the 1980s. Specialist music will also feature, including a specialist dance music show, an urban music show and specific decades music shows"* to *"mainstream music from the past few decades to present day. Specialist music will also feature, including a dance and urban music show"*.
- Remove the requirement to broadcast travel news.
- Reduce its original output requirement from 84 hours per week to 44 hours per week.
- Reduce its locally-produced output requirement from 42 hours per week to 30 hours per week.

We have taken a preliminary view on the request and are minded to approve the Key Commitment changes requested by the Licensee. However, we are seeking views on the request before we make a final decision. The consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 25 March 2024

2. Details and background information

- 2.1 The licence for each community radio service contains 'Key Commitments' which describe the type of programme service the licensee is required to provide, based on the commitments it made when applying for the licence.
- 2.2 Ofcom has received a Key Commitments change request from Rush FM Limited, which holds a community radio licence for Farnborough, with regards to its service 'B Radio (Farnborough)'. B Radio's target community is "under-30s who live, work and study in Farnborough and surrounding areas".

Rush FM Limited's licence

- 2.3 The station commenced broadcasting in March 2021 as 'Glow Radio', and changed its name to 'B Radio (Farnborough)' in July 2021.
- 2.4 The current Key Commitments are appended to this document as Annex 7. They can also be viewed on the Ofcom website here:
<http://static.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/Community/commitments/cr102194.pdf>
- 2.5 Rush FM Limited has requested several changes, and a copy of its Key Commitments change request form is appended to this document as Annex 6.

Statutory framework and considerations

- 2.6 Community radio services are licensed under the terms of three related pieces of legislation. In particular, the Community Radio Order 2004 (the "Order") applies modified versions of the Communications Act 2003 (the "2003 Act") and Broadcasting Act 1990 (the "1990 Act") to community radio. The legislation sets out requirements that must be met for radio services to qualify as 'community radio services', including that such services are not profit-distributing, are provided for a target community, deliver social gain objectives, invite access and participation in the service, and are accountable to the target community.
- 2.7 Section 106(1) of the 1990 Act (as modified by the Order) requires that community radio licences include such conditions as appear to Ofcom to be appropriate for securing that the character of the licensed service (as proposed by the licence holder when making its application) is maintained during the period for which the licence is in force.
- 2.8 The way section 106(1) applies in practice is that, when a prospective licence holder applies for a community radio licence, it must set out its proposals as to the character of the service it intends to provide. Those proposals are summarised in what is known as a 'Key Commitments' document, which then forms the basis for the terms and conditions contained in the licence regarding the 'character of the service' and its delivery. Such terms and conditions are agreed with each licensee before the station starts broadcasting. (The 'licensee' is the organisation which holds the community radio licence.)
- 2.9 The Key Commitments document includes:

- a description of the community to be served;
- a summary of the character of service (a short description of the station's aims);
- a description of the programme service;
- social gain objectives (including how the station will satisfy the mandatory social gain requirements set out in the legislation, and any other social gain objectives of the service);
- access and participation arrangements; and
- mechanisms to ensure accountability to the target community.

2.10 In determining the licence conditions that should be included in a licence under section 106(1) of the 1990 Act, section 106(1A) provides that Ofcom may, in particular, include conditions that enable it to consent to a "departure from the character of a licensed service" (or, in other words, the Key Commitments) should a licence holder subsequently request such a change. This is embodied in condition 2(5) of each community radio licence, allowing Ofcom to consent to changes in Key Commitments. Before Ofcom can give its consent it must be satisfied that one of a number of statutory criteria has been fulfilled (see below). However, the legislation also gives Ofcom discretion not to consent to a proposed change, even if one of these criteria is satisfied.

2.11 The statutory criteria that Ofcom must apply when considering requests to change Key Commitments are set out in Section 106(1A) of the 1990 Act (as modified by the Order), and are as follows:

- that the departure would not substantially alter the character of the service (section 106(1A)(a));
- that the departure would not narrow the range of programmes available by way of relevant independent radio services to persons comprising the relevant community (section 106(1A)(b));
- that, there is evidence that, among persons comprising that community, there is a significant demand for, or significant support for, the change that would result from the departure (section 106(1A)(d));
- that the departure would not 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 (section 106(1A)(e)); or
- that the departure would not be prejudicial to the delivery of social gain resulting from the provision of the service provided under that licence (section 106(1A)(f)).

2.12 Where Ofcom is considering whether or not to consent to a proposed change on the basis of sections 106(1A)(b), (d), (e) or (f) above, it is under a general obligation to consult with those who, in its opinion, are likely to be affected by the change. Ofcom is not, however, required to consult when it is satisfied that a proposed change satisfies section 106(1A)(a) - i.e. that a proposed change would "not substantially alter the character of the service". The term 'character of the service' is not defined in the legislation. We consider that it includes everything that is set out in each service's Key Commitments section of its licence. For the avoidance of doubt, this goes beyond a sub-section in the Key Commitments document entitled 'description of character of service' to encompass the entirety of the Key Commitments annex to the licence.

2.13 The legislation leaves the decision as to whether to permit a change, even if one of the above criteria is satisfied, to Ofcom's discretion. There may be reasons (depending on the circumstances of the case) why Ofcom may not consent to the proposed change, notwithstanding that one of the

statutory criteria is met. We have published criteria we use to help us judge whether a request of this kind should be approved. We also take account of our general statutory duties, including:

- a) our principal duty to further the interests of citizens and consumers;
- b) our duty to secure the availability throughout the UK of a wide range of television and radio services which (taken as a whole) are both of high quality and calculated to appeal to a variety of tastes and interests (including specifically a range and diversity of local radio services), as well as the maintenance of a sufficient plurality of providers of different services; and
- c) our duty to have regard to the different interests of persons in the different parts of the UK, of the different ethnic communities within it and of persons living in rural and in urban areas.

2.14 Where we consult, we will usually do so by publishing a consultation document on our website. We will usually include in that document a preliminary view about the request. That is not a decision, but a provisional view, subject to the consultation process, so that those who wish to respond to the consultation can do so on an informed basis. We then consider all the responses to the consultation and make our decision on the request.

3. Consideration of the request and Preliminary View

- 3.1 Annex 6 contains Rush FM Limited's Key Commitments change request. Rush FM Limited wishes to change its Key Commitments for the service B Radio (Farnborough) in the following ways:
- Change its character of service, such that the target community for the station is *"under-40s who live, work and study in Farnborough and surrounding areas"* instead of *"under-30s who live, work and study in Farnborough and surrounding areas"*.
 - Change its music output requirement from *"mainstream music from the 1990s to present day, with some music from the 1980s. Specialist music will also feature, including a specialist dance music show, an urban music show and specific decades music shows"* to *"mainstream music from the past few decades to present day. Specialist music will also feature, including a dance and urban music show"*.
 - Remove the requirement to broadcast travel news.
 - Reduce its original output requirement from 84 hours per week to 44 hours per week.
 - Reduce its locally-produced output requirement from 42 hours per week to 30 hours per week.
- 3.2 The request is made on the basis the change would satisfy all five of the statutory criteria in section 106(1A) of the 1990 Act, and that it is consistent with Ofcom's generally applied policy criteria for such requests. Rush FM Limited's full rationale is contained in the Key Commitment change request in Annex 6.
- 3.3 Our consideration of the request in relation to section 106(1A)(a), and our provisional consideration in relation to the other four statutory criteria, is set out below.

Section 106(1A)(a)

- 3.4 We consider that the change *could* substantially alter the character of the service (i.e. we are not satisfied in relation to criterion (a)).
- 3.5 Ofcom considers that the requested change to the character of service, which would serve to extend the target community of B Radio (Farnborough) to include 30-39 year-olds as well as the current target community of under-30s in Farnborough, could substantially alter the character of the service (i.e. we are not satisfied in relation to criterion (a)). Generally we consider that a change to a service's target community is likely to be substantial, and in this case the extension to the target community would in our view result in B Radio no longer being clearly targeted at a youth audience (i.e. under-30s in Farnborough).

Preliminary view

- 3.6 As we are not satisfied in relation to section 106(1A)(a), we are required to consult before deciding whether we are satisfied in relation to any of the remaining statutory criteria.
- 3.7 As noted in paragraph 2.14, we will usually include in the consultation a preliminary view about the request to allow those who wish to respond to the consultation to do so on an informed basis. Our preliminary view on the request from Rush FM Limited is as follows.

- 3.8 In terms of the statutory criteria, we are minded to be satisfied with regard to section 106(1A)(b) of the Broadcasting Act 1990, namely that the changes if implemented would not narrow the range of programmes available to the target community of under-30s in Farnborough and surrounding areas.
- 3.9 The Licensee has, in making its request, stated that there will be no significant changes to its programme output, and has indicated that it believes its existing content is likely to appeal to under-40s in the area. The Licensee has further explained that its request to broaden its target community in this way is designed to better reflect its listenership, and to strengthen its appeal to advertisers and grant funders as a more broad-based station.
- 3.10 We agree that, in the examples set out by the licensee in its request, the programming in question is likely to appeal to under-40s as well as under-30s, and that as such there will be no need to significantly change the programming and in doing so narrow the range of programmes available to the target community of under-30s in Farnborough and surrounding areas.
- 3.11 We are also satisfied that the overall description of the character of service, which sets out that the service will continue to provide dedicated shows for local young people, will ensure that the range of programmes available to this target community will not be narrowed, even though as set out above the station would no longer be clearly targeted at a young audience.
- 3.12 Ofcom does not consider that the other aspects of the request could substantially alter the character of the service. The proposed change to the music requirement in our view represents a minor alteration which will give the station more flexibility and also be future-proofed as time elapses, while the retention of commitments to specialist music (including a dance and urban music show”) will help the station maintain its appeal among its current target audience.
- 3.13 With regard to the speech content, Ofcom believes that the requirement to broadcast travel news is not a significant aspect of the overall character of the service, and that removing this requirement is therefore unlikely to substantially alter the character of the service. We expect that, given the station’s continuing requirement to broadcast local information, it will in any case broadcast major travel updates when relevant.
- 3.14 We recognise that the proposed reductions to original and locally-produced output are relatively large reductions, of roughly 50% and roughly 30% respectively. However, we also recognise that the station is facing a difficult climate for retaining and recruiting volunteers, and that providing this additional flexibility in resource management will allow the station to increase its focus on recruiting and training new volunteers. We consider that the proposed new required hours should be sufficient to enable the station to continue to comply with its character of service.

Policy criteria

- 3.15 We have also formed a preliminary view as to whether we would be willing to exercise our discretion to approve the request, given we are satisfied, on a preliminary basis, in relation to one of the statutory criteria. We have therefore considered the request in relation to our policy criteria for whether to approve Key Commitment change requests.
- 3.16 We are satisfied that the proposed changes should not affect the Licensee’s ability to meet the characteristics of a community radio service. It will still be required to broadcast a reasonable amount of both original and locally-produced output over the course of each week following the

requested reductions, and none of the changes to speech, music or the character of service will affect the station's ability to continue to act as a community radio service.

3.17 As set out above, we are satisfied that the Licensee has reasonable grounds for making this request, and that the overall impact of these changes on the character of the service will be relatively modest, and are satisfied in relation to these policy criteria.

3.18 Finally, there are no issues relating to either format creep or the amount of time elapsed since the licence was granted which would prevent us from being able to approve this request.

3.19 We are therefore minded to grant the request by Rush FM Limited, on the basis that we are satisfied in regard to section 106(1A)(b), and that we are satisfied to exercise our discretion to approve the request in relation to our policy criteria.

A1. Impact assessments

Impact assessment

- A1.1 Section 7 of the 2003 Act requires that, where we are proposing to do anything for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying out of our functions, and it appears to us that the proposal is important, we are required to carry out and publish an assessment of the likely impact of implementing the proposal, or a statement setting out our reasons for thinking that it is unnecessary to carry out such an assessment.
- A1.2 Ofcom is also required by statute to assess the potential impact of all its functions, policies, projects and practices on the following equality groups: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) also assist us in making sure that we are meeting our principal duty of furthering the interests of citizens and consumers regardless of their background or identity.
- A1.3 We recognise that approving this request could have an impact on young people in Farnborough and surrounding areas. We consider this impact would be likely to be greater if the station was proposing to no longer serve listeners aged 30 and under, but given that this is not the case, and as set out above we are satisfied the station will retain an obligation to appeal to the under-30s, we judge the likely impact to be very low.
- A1.4 We also recognise that, in combination with the reduction in original output requested by the licensee, there could be fewer opportunities for potential volunteers, especially those under 30, to become involved in the delivery of the service. However, the licensee will remain obliged to “provide a voice to local young people and showcase their talents” and “find opportunities to teach young people new skills through courses and training” which should help mitigate any such impacts.
- A1.5 We also recognise that supporting changes to strengthen a licensee’s sustainability is likely to be a net positive to the radio service and the community to which it provides social gain in the medium- to long-term.
- A1.6 Other than on the basis of age, we have not identified any other potential equality impacts that would result from agreeing this request, given that we do not expect these changes to affect other aspects of the programme service, or the social gain delivered by the licensee, than those addressed above.

A2. Consultation questions

Question 1: Should Ofcom consent to Rush FM Limited making the changes it proposes to the Key Commitments of B Radio (Farnborough), with particular regard to the statutory criteria set out in Section 1 of this consultation document? (Section 106 (1A) of the 1990 Broadcasting Act, as modified by the Community Radio Order 2004).

Question 2: With reference to our impact assessment, do you agree with our assessment of the potential impacts of this proposal, including with regard to specific groups of people?

A3. Responding to this consultation

How to respond

- A3.1 Ofcom would like to receive views and comments on the issues raised in this document, by 5pm on 25 March 2024.
- A3.2 You can download a response form from <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-3/change-key-commitments-b-radio-farnborough>. You can return this by email or post to the address provided in the response form.
- A3.3 If your response is a large file, or has supporting charts, tables or other data, please email it to broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk, as an attachment in Microsoft Word format, together with the cover sheet.
- A3.4 Responses may alternatively be posted to the address below, marked with the title of the consultation:
- Broadcast Licensing
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
- A3.5 We welcome responses in formats other than print, for example an audio recording or a British Sign Language video. To respond in BSL:
- send us a recording of you signing your response. This should be no longer than 5 minutes. Suitable file formats are DVDs, wmv or QuickTime files; or
 - upload a video of you signing your response directly to YouTube (or another hosting site) and send us the link.
- A3.6 We will publish a transcript of any audio or video responses we receive (unless your response is confidential)
- A3.7 We do not need a paper copy of your response as well as an electronic version. We will acknowledge receipt of a response submitted to us by email.
- A3.8 You do not have to answer all the questions in the consultation if you do not have a view; a short response on just one point is fine. We also welcome joint responses.
- A3.9 It would be helpful if your response could include direct answers to the questions asked in the consultation document. The questions are listed at Annex 2. It would also help if you could explain why you hold your views, and what you think the effect of Ofcom's proposals would be.
- A3.10 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, please contact the Broadcast Licensing team by email to broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk

Confidentiality

- A3.11 Consultations are more effective if we publish the responses before the consultation period closes. This can help people and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. So, in the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, and because we believe it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other respondents' views, we usually publish responses on the Ofcom website at regular intervals during and after the consultation period.
- A3.12 If you think your response should be kept confidential, please specify which part(s) this applies to and explain why. Please send any confidential sections as a separate annex. If you want your name, address, other contact details or job title to remain confidential, please provide them only in the cover sheet, so that we don't have to edit your response.
- A3.13 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and try to respect it. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.
- A3.14 To fulfil our pre-disclosure duty, we may share a copy of your response with the relevant government department before we publish it on our website.
- A3.15 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's intellectual property rights are explained further in our Terms of Use.

Next steps

- A3.16 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish a statement in April 2024.
- A3.17 If you wish, you can register to receive mail updates alerting you to new Ofcom publications.

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A3.18 Ofcom aims to make responding to a consultation as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex 4.
- A3.19 If you have any comments or suggestions on how we manage our consultations, please email us at consult@ofcom.org.uk. We particularly welcome ideas on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of groups or individuals, such as small businesses and residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.
- A3.20 If you would like to discuss these issues, or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally, please contact the corporation secretary:
- A3.21 Corporation Secretary
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
Email: corporationsecretary@ofcom.org.uk

A4. Ofcom's consultation principles

Ofcom has seven principles that it follows for every public written consultation:

Before the consultation

A4.1 Wherever possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation, to find out whether we are thinking along the right lines. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals, shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

A4.2 We will be clear about whom we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.

A4.3 We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible, with an overview of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible for people to give us a written response.

A4.4 We will consult for up to ten weeks, depending on the potential impact of our proposals.

A4.5 A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and aim to reach the largest possible number of people and organisations who may be interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's Consultation Champion is the main person to contact if you have views on the way we run our consultations.

A4.6 If we are not able to follow any of these seven principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

A4.7 We think it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other people's views, so we usually publish the responses on our website at regular intervals during and after the consultation period. After the consultation we will make our decisions and publish a statement explaining what we are going to do, and why, showing how respondents' views helped to shape these decisions.

A5. Consultation coversheet

Basic details

Consultation title:

To (Ofcom contact):

Name of respondent:

Representing (self or organisation/s):

Address (if not received by email):

Confidentiality

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

- Nothing
- Name/contact details/job title
- Whole response
- Organisation
- Part of the response

If you selected 'Part of the response', please specify which parts:

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

Yes No

Declaration

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to publish all responses, including those which are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom aims to publish responses at regular intervals during and after the consultation period. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.

Name

Signed (if hard copy)

A6. Key Commitments change request from Rush FM Limited

Key Commitments change request form

Community radio station name:	106.5 B Radio (Farnborough)
Licence number:	CR102194BA/2
Licensee (company name):	Rush FM Limited
Contact name:	Roger Noble
Date of request:	31st August 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
GLOW RADIO serves under-30s who live, work and study in Farnborough and surrounding areas. The service provides dedicated shows to provide a voice to local young people and showcase their talents, and works with the community to find opportunities to teach young people new skills through courses and training.	B Radio serves under-40s who live, work and study in Farnborough and surrounding areas. The service provides dedicated shows to provide a voice to local young people and showcase their talents, and works with the community to find opportunities to teach young people new skills through courses and training.	Change GLOW RADIO to B Radio to reflect the current service name, but also to amend the “Character of Service” to “under-40s”. This better reflects the change in how many modern young-adults are now starting their families and getting onto the property ladder at an older age. The content we are currently delivering on air to an under-30 audience also has much relevance to the 30-39 audience too.
Music. The main types of music broadcast over the course of each week are: mainstream music from the 1990s to present day, with some music from the 1980s. Specialist music will also feature, including a specialist dance music show, an urban music show and specific decades music show	Music. The main types of music broadcast over the course of each week are: mainstream music from the past few decades to present day. Specialist music will also feature, including a dance and urban music show.	We have had feedback that some of the “older” songs played are not known by our target audience. As the years progress, this music becomes ever older, and less relevant to our target audience. This revision enables the music to stay in line with the music tastes of our target audience as time moves on.

<p>Speech. The main types of speech output broadcast over the course of each week are: travel news, and community and local information.</p>	<p>Speech. The main types of speech output broadcast over the course of each week are: community and local information.</p>	<p>Typically on a weekly basis in the coverage area, there is little “travel news”, especially in off-peak periods like the school summer holidays. Rather than arbitrarily running travel bulletins with little information in them, it would make more sense for travel information to be treated as part of “local information” and broadcast as and when needed alongside other relevant local information.</p>
<p>The service provides original output for a minimum of 84 hours per week.</p>	<p>The service provides original output for a minimum of 44 hours per week.</p>	<p>With the recent cost of living crisis, we have found many volunteers have either had to cut back their involvement or stop volunteering, as they spend their time at their paid jobs. With less active volunteers, with the high original output requirement, we have had to focus efforts on meeting this requirement. The revised hours means we can instead provide more time on recruiting new volunteers and training them.</p>

<p>The service provides locally-produced output for a minimum of 42 hours per week.</p>	<p>The service provides locally-produced output for a minimum of 30 hours per week.</p>	<p>Some of our previous volunteers have moved away from the area, such as to go to University. The change in hours for locally-produced output means we can use the services of presenters who are already trained and have knowledge of the area, but who no longer live here. This gives us greater flexibility, especially during periods of time where there are less volunteers available locally.</p>
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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)
No. We believe these are subtle changes that simply enable us to better focus our output on the audience, and give us greater flexibility during times of need, that are becoming ever more evident from the cost of living crisis.	
(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)
There is no significant change to the existing output that will occur from the changes proposed and we'll continue to provide programming that is relevant to young adults in the local area.	
(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/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.

(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)
The proposed changes do not have any negative impact on 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.	
(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)
The proposed changes do not affect any of the social gain already provided by the service.	
<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>	

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.

AmendedMay2018

A7. B Radio (Farnborough) current Key Commitments

Key Commitments

1. Licence number: CR102194

Service name	B Radio
Licence area	Farnborough and surrounding areas (as shown in the licensed coverage area map)
Frequency	106.5 MHz

Description of character of service

B Radio serves under-30s who live, work and study in Farnborough and surrounding areas. The service provides dedicated shows to provide a voice to local young people and showcase their talents, and works with the community to find opportunities to teach young people new skills through courses and training.

The service broadcasts:

- Music. The main types of music broadcast over the course of each week are: mainstream music from the 1990s to present day, with some music from the 1980s. Specialist music will also feature, including a specialist dance music show, an urban music show and specific decades music show
- Speech. The main types of speech output broadcast over the course of each week are: travel news, and community and local information.
- Programming in English.
- The service provides original output¹ for a minimum of 84 hours per week.
- The service provides locally-produced output² for a minimum of 42 hours per week.

The studio is located within the licensed coverage area.

The service provides a range of community benefits (social gain objectives mandated by statute) for the target community, both on-air and off-air, and in doing so, achieves the following objectives:

- the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion,
- the provision (whether by means of programmes included in the service or otherwise) of education or training to individuals not employed by the person providing the service, and
- the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of links within it.

Members of the target community contribute to the operation and management of the service.

The service has mechanisms in place to ensure it is accountable to its target community.

[JULY 2021]

A8. Other commercial and community radio stations in the Farnborough licence area

Analogue commercial radio stations

- 3.20 Greatest Hits Radio (Surrey and North East Hampshire)
- 3.21 Heart (Reading/Basingstoke & Andover)
- 3.22 Premier Christian Radio (Surrey and North East Hampshire)

Analogue community radio stations

- 3.23 BFBS (Aldershot) – A station for service personnel, MOD civilian employees and their families who make up the military community at Aldershot Garrison.

The overview section in this document is a simplified high-level summary only. The proposals we are consulting on and our reasoning are set out in the full document