



# Community Radio Fund

End of year report: 2015/16

Statement

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## About this document

This document reports on how the Community Radio Fund was administered in 2015/16.

Ofcom has been tasked by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) with administering a Community Radio Fund. DCMS provides a sum of money each year for the Fund and grants are awarded to Ofcom-licensed community radio stations.

The report sets out how much money was given out as grants, which stations received grants, and for what purposes they were awarded.

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## Section 1

# Community Radio Fund End of Year Report 2015/16

- 1.1 The Community Radio Fund ('the Fund') exists to help community radio licensees (companies that hold a community radio licence) and to support core costs incurred in the provision of community radio services.
- 1.2 Ofcom administers the Fund on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The money allocated to the Fund is given out in the form of grants, following a formal application process.
- 1.3 The decisions on grant applications are made by the Community Radio Fund Panel ('the Panel') which reports to the Ofcom Board.
- 1.4 DCMS allocated £377,000 to the Fund for the financial year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. A further £245 was added to the total, following a small underspend by a previous grant recipient.
- 1.5 There were two rounds of grant applications held in 2015/16 to give out this money.
- 1.6 Applications for the first round opened on 8 April 2015 and closed on 6 May 2015. The Panel met on 23 June 2015 to consider the applications.
- 1.7 The second funding round opened on 15 October 2015 and closed on 11 November 2015. The Panel met on 19 January 2016 to consider the applications.

## Summary of payments

- 1.8 In the first round, grants totalling £160,782 were awarded to 12 stations.
- 1.9 In the second round £216,463 worth of grants were awarded to a further 16 stations.
- 1.10 Over the two funding rounds 101 applications were considered, applying for a total of £1,766,035 (£822,034 in the first round and £944,001 in the second round). There were 17 applicants who applied in both rounds, three of whom were successful (all in the second round).
- 1.11 Grants over the course of the year ranged from £3,054 to £21,150, with an average payment of £13,473. (See [Annex 1](#) for the list of individual awards).

## Panel priorities

- 1.12 Ofcom publishes a statement from the Panel following each funding round which sets out the awards made, reiterates the Panel's ongoing funding priorities, and makes additional comments and observations.
- 1.13 During 2015/16, the Panel said that for fundraising roles, it wishes to see roles that are self-sustaining and likely to continue once the grant has been spent. Furthermore, the Panel likes to see clear financial targets set for such posts.

- 1.14 The Panel continues to consider fundraising and promoting long-term financial sustainability to be critical, core activities. It therefore continues to favour proposals with these aims. It also believes there is scope for collaborative working or joint applications from stations.
- 1.15 The majority of the grants awarded during 2015/16 were for business development, fundraising and sales positions. The summary statements of awards for each round, with additional comments by the Panel, are available at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/community-radio-fund/>.

## Grant monitoring

- 1.16 The Panel has implemented a reporting procedure to check that grant awards are spent as agreed. A grant agreement is put in place between Ofcom and each licensee awarded a grant, and this sets out the terms of the award, including an expenditure period. Successful applicants are obliged to complete a report (the 'grant report') detailing how they spent their grant. If a satisfactory report is not made, the Panel may require repayment of the grant, and may consider not making a further grant to a licensee.
- 1.17 The majority of licensees who received awards from the Fund in 2014/15 have submitted satisfactory grant reports. However, two stations, Bradley Stoke Radio and Penistone FM, each requested, and were granted, an extension to their grant expenditure period; as a result, their grant reports are not yet due.
- 1.18 The expenditure periods for stations which received awards from the Fund in 2015/16 (as listed in Annex 1) have not yet expired, and so grant reports for these are not yet due.

## Community radio sector and future of the Fund

- 1.19 The community radio sector has continued to grow: there were 238 stations broadcasting at the end of the 2015/16 financial year, compared with 225 in 2014/15.
- 1.20 Although it was originally anticipated that there would be £382,000 provided by DCMS for the Fund in financial year 2015/16, the actual amount made available was £377,000.
- 1.21 DCMS has confirmed it will continue to provide money to use in the Fund for the next four years, up to and including the 2019/20 financial year.

## Panel members

The Panel is made up of three members appointed by Ofcom. For 2015/16 these were: Wendy Pilmer, the Chairman of the Panel, who is a consultant who works with the world's leading broadcasters in implementing strategy and managing change; Richard Hilton, who is Head of Management Accounting at Business in the Community, a charity and membership organisation that works with companies to improve the positive impact of business on society; and Fiona Lennox, the Executive Director of the Communications Consumer Panel, who has extensive experience in communications strategy, policy, research and management.

**Annex 1****Awards to stations in 2015/16****Round 1**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Gaydio	Manchester	Digital Manager for an online advertising project involving a number of stations around the UK	£21,150
CamGlen Radio	Cambuslang and Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire	Project Worker and Business Development Manager	£19,753
Pure Radio 107.8	Stockport, Greater Manchester	Training and Development Co-ordinator	£16,560
IÚR-fm	Newry, Northern Ireland	Sustainability Officer	£16,000
Insanity Radio	Egham, Surrey	Media and Development Officer	£15,702
Radio Teesdale	Teesside	Business Development Manager (salary contribution)	£15,000
Westside 89.6 FM	Southall, London	Business Development Manager	£15,000
Deveron FM	Banff, Aberdeenshire	Sales Person / Fundraiser	£14,540
The Hub	Tregony, Cornwall	Fundraising and Events Officer	£8,924
Moorlands Radio	Biddulph, Staffs	Station Fundraising Co-ordinator	£8,153
BRFM	Isle of Sheppey, Kent	Business & Development Officer	£5,500
Beverley FM	Beverley, East Yorkshire	Specialist Funding Application Trainer	£4,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>£160,782</b>

**Round 2**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Reprezent 107.3FM	SE London	Station/Business Manager	£18,417
Irvine Beat FM	Irvine, North Ayrshire	Production and Sustainability Manager	£18,000
Legacy 90.1	Manchester	Business Development Manager	£18,000
Switch Radio	NE Birmingham	Funding Officer	£17,078
An Radio / An Rèidio	Outer Hebrides	Business Development Manager	£16,750
ABC FM	Portadown, Northern Ireland	Sustainability Officer	£16,000
BANG Radio	Harlesden, London	Station /Business Development Manager	£15,000
Frome FM	Frome, Somerset	Fundraising and Communications Manager	£14,500
Môn FM	Isle of Anglesey /Ynys Môn	Business and Development Officer	£14,278
Source FM	Falmouth, Cornwall	Cross Station Fundraiser to work with Source FM and Radio St Austell Bay	£13,844
Radio Dawn	Nottingham	Community Outreach & Marketing Coordinator	£12,537
Penwith Radio	Penzance, Cornwall	Community Outreach Worker / Advertising Salesperson	£12,421
Akash Radio Leeds	Leeds	Business Development Officer	£12,000
Academy FM Thanet	Ramsgate, Kent	Sales Person	£8,313
Point FM	Rhyl, Denbighshire	Sales and Community Development officer	£6,271
Salford City Radio	Salford	Commercial Campaign Co- ordinator	£3,054
<b>Total</b>			<b>£216,463</b>