

Providing a service in accordance with ‘Key Commitments’, Takeover Radio Children’s Media Trust

Type of case Broadcast Licence Conditions

Outcome In Breach

Service Takeover Radio (Leicester)

Date & time May 2022

Category Key Commitments

Summary The Licensee failed to fulfil the requirements specified in its Key Commitments to deliver 11 hours of original output per day and to provide a service for children and young people in Leicester, characterised by the involvement of the target community. Breach of Licence Conditions 2(1) and 2(4).

Introduction

Takeover Radio is a community radio station for children and young people in Leicester. The licence for Takeover Radio is held by Takeover Radio Children’s Media Trust (“Takeover Radio” or “the Licensee”).

Like all other community radio stations, Takeover Radio Children’s Media Trust is required to deliver ‘[Key Commitments](#)’

(<http://static.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/Community/commitments/cr000010.pdf>), which form part of its licence. These set out how the station will serve its target community and deliver social gain (community benefits), and also include a description of the on-air programme service.

Ofcom requested recordings of the Licensee’s broadcast output from 9 May 2022 to 15 May 2022 to ensure that Takeover Radio was complying with its Key Commitments to broadcast a minimum of 11 hours of original output per day and provide a service for children and young people in Leicester. This was following the [Breach Decision](#) published in February 2022

(https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/232730/Takeover-Radio-Leicester.pdf).

Having reviewed the material Takeover Radio Children's Media Trust had provided to assist us in our assessment, we found that the service broadcast between two and ten hours of original output per day on six of the seven days reviewed. We also found that much of the content broadcast was not specifically aimed at the target community of "children and young people in Leicester".

It therefore appeared that Takeover Radio was not delivering the following Key Commitments:

- "Takeover Radio provides a service for children and young people in Leicester, characterised by the involvement of the target community".
- "The service provides original output for a minimum of 11 hours per day".

Ofcom considered that this raised potential issues under Licence Conditions 2(1) and 2(4). These state, respectively:

"2(1) The Licensee...shall provide the service specified in Part I (b) of the Annex for the remainder of the licence period".

"2(4) Subject to Condition 2(5) below..., the Licensee shall ensure that the Licensed Service accords with the proposals set out in Part I (b) of the Annex so as to maintain the character of the Licensed Service throughout the licence period".

We requested comments from the Licensee on how it was complying with the above conditions.

Response

The Licensee did not respond to our request for comments following the Preliminary View. However, we took into account the comments made prior to the Preliminary View.

Character of Service

In its response, Takeover considered that it was meeting its Key Commitment to provide a service for children and young people in Leicester, characterised by the involvement of the target community.

The Licensee stated that:

"Takeover Radio content is targeted at you(ng) people. Young people themselves produce and present their own shows, we have no control over what they do. We only check that what they are doing is legal etc. To say that we do not have any content targeted at young people is wrong. Whatever is important to our young people is what they talk about on the radio. If they wish to talk about football, it's important to them and they are expressing what young people think about the game. For example, [presenter 1] prefers a different genre of music to most people (Thursday night's 6PM-8PM). If you listen to the show, you will hear that the music played is completely different to what a stereotypical young person would like. However, because he likes it and can talk with knowledge about the music, he does a show about it. In [presenter 2]'s drivetime show, he does a feature about funny bozos (criminals) who fail when trying to commit crime. This is targeted at a

young audience because it is funny and makes you chuckle, but also has an educational side. We have also just started a local music show on Thursday night's between 8PM and 10PM. This targets a teen audience as the music played and/or performed can be streamed online. We live stream the show online via cameras to mixcloud and also post about the show on social media, which the stereotypical young person uses a lot".

Original output

In its response, Takeover did not deny that it was failing to meet its Key Commitment to provide a minimum of 11 hours of original content per day. It set out that:

"As per previous comments, we had quite a few people join us during lockdown as we trained people from home, as they had more free time than normal. However, as places have opened up, they have gone back to their original clubs/activities etc and therefore we have lost a few".

Takeover also explained that it has increased its original output hours since the previous investigation and is working to continue increasing this "to add another 6 hours per week by the end of the month". It understood that this would still not meet its requirement to provide a minimum of 11 hours of original output per day.

Decision

Reflecting our duties to ensure a diverse range of local radio services, community radio licensees are required to provide the licensed service specified in their Key Commitments. This is a fundamental purpose for which a community licence is granted.

Character of Service

During the period monitored, we did not find much content specifically aimed at the target community of "children and young people in Leicester". A small number of the programmes monitored were presented by young people/children from the local community. This amounted to a total of 8 hours over the days monitored where the programmes were aimed at young people.

The other programmes were not specifically aimed at children and young people. The breakfast shows contained generic 'light entertainment' content, with no specific focus on issues of interest to children and young people, or speech content designed to appeal to that community. We found that significant amounts of the speech content would be unlikely to appeal to children and young people, given frequent references to popular culture from the latter half of the twentieth century. For these reasons, we consider that Takeover was not complying with its Key Commitment to serve "children and young people in Leicester" during the week monitored.

Original Output

We found that the Licensee underdelivered on its daily requirement every day other than 12 May, when it broadcast twelve hours of original output. On the other six of the seven days reviewed, the Licensee broadcast between two and ten hours of original output per day at an average of 6.7 hours per day across the period.

We acknowledge that Takeover intends to add more original output to its schedule but that this would still not meet its original output requirement. We would like to remind licensees that Key Commitments are a fundamental aspect of a community radio licence and are put forward and agreed with each licensee from the outset and at each revision. This is made clear to all prospective licensees before they apply for a licence. Licensees may apply to Ofcom to change their Key Commitments and information about this can be found on Ofcom's website (<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-yourlicence/radio-broadcast-licensing/amend>).

Whilst we understand that Takeover Radio broadcast over 11 hours of original output one day during the week monitored, the requirement in its Key Commitments is to broadcast 11 hours of original output every day. We therefore consider that Takeover is not complying with its Key Commitments by broadcasting less than the required eleven hours of original output per day.

Conclusion

We appreciate that the Licensee has informed us of the steps it proposes to take to meet its Key Commitments going forward. However, Ofcom's Decision is that Takeover Radio Children's Media Trust is in breach of Licence Conditions 2(1) and 2(4) for failing to comply with the following Key Commitments:

- "Takeover Radio provides a service for children and young people in Leicester, characterised by the involvement of the target community".
- "The service provides original output for a minimum of 11 hours per day".

We expect the Licensee to work to rectify these issues immediately. This is the second time that Takeover Radio Children's Media Trust has been found in breach of Licence Conditions 2(1) and 2(4) and **we are therefore putting the Licensee on notice that this contravention of its licence will be considered for the imposition of a statutory sanction.** We will monitor this service to ensure that Takeover Radio is complying with the Key Commitments.

Breach of Licence Conditions 2(1) and 2(4)