



Provision of information: community radio finance reports

Type of case	Broadcast Licence Conditions
Outcome	In Breach
Service	Various
Date & time	January to December 2024
Category	Provision of information
Summary	<p>14 licensees failed to submit their Community Radio Finance Reports by the deadline. Ten of these subsequently submitted a late report.</p> <p>Breaches of Condition 9(1) and/or 10(1).</p>

Introduction

Community radio stations are provided primarily for the good of people in an area or for a particular community, rather than primarily for commercial reasons. They must also deliver social gain, operate for a not-for-profit basis, involve members of their target communities and be accountable to the communities they serve.

It is of fundamental importance that Ofcom can verify that a licensee is complying with its licence requirements relating to funding.¹ We therefore require licensees to submit a finance report setting out how they have met their licence obligations. The finance reports from stations also inform Ofcom’s own understanding of the community radio sector, and financial information about the sector features in the [Communications Market Report](#).² Finance reports that are not received or received late, impact on the accuracy of the data in the report.

¹ In 2024, there were statutory restrictions on the funding of community radio stations, which were set out in community radio licences.

² <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/multi-sector-research/cmr>

Failure by a licensee to submit a finance report when required represents a serious and fundamental breach of a community radio licence, as the absence of the information contained in the report means that Ofcom is unable to properly carry out its regulatory duties.

Ofcom requested finance reports for the calendar year 2024 from all community radio licensees who were broadcasting on AM, FM and/or DAB for the whole of 2024. A number of licensees failed to provide their reports by the specified deadline.

The provision of information to Ofcom is a condition of all Broadcasting Act licences. This is Condition 9(1) for Community Radio (“CR”) licences and Condition 10(1) for Community Digital Sound Programme Service (“CDSP”) licences. These conditions state:

- (1): “The Licensee shall maintain records of and furnish to Ofcom in such manner and at such times as Ofcom may reasonably require such documents, accounts, estimates, returns, reports, notices or other information as Ofcom may require for the purpose of exercising the functions assigned to it by or under the 1990 Act, the 1996 Act or the Communications Act...”

Decision

In Breach - non-provision of community radio finance report

Ofcom did not receive a finance report from the following licensees by the deadline given and the finance reports remain outstanding. Ofcom’s Decision is therefore that these licensees are **in breach of Licence Condition 9(1) or 10(1) of their licences**:

Licensee	Service name	Licence number
Juice Belfast Limited	Juice FM Belfast	CR102273
Preston Community Radio 23	Juice Radio	CR000158
Leicester Community Radio Broadcasting CIC	LCR	CDP104509
SWU.FM LTD	SWUFM	CR102274

Ofcom considers the failure to provide this information to be a serious matter. Failure by a licensee to submit an accurate finance report represents a serious and fundamental breach of a community radio licence, as the absence of the information contained in the report means that Ofcom is unable to properly carry out its regulatory duties.

In Breach – late provision of community radio finance report

Ofcom did not receive a finance report from the following licensees by the deadline given. These licensees subsequently submitted late reports and have been found **in breach of Licence Condition 9(1) and/or 10(1) of their licences**:

Licensee	Service name	Licence number
Alias Music and Community Projects C.I.C.	1BTN	CR101282
Awaaz FM Community Radio CIC	Awaaz FM	CR101276
East Coast FM (SCIO)	East Coast FM	CR000259
St Mathews Community Solution Centre Ltd	Eava FM	CR000178 CDP104938
Felixstowe Radio Community Interest Company	Felixstowe Radio	CR000190
Fiesta FM CIC	Fiesta FM	CR101278
HAYES FM - FILM & MEDIA	Hayes FM	CR000073
Pride Community Network Limited	Pride Radio	CR102268 CDP104220
Sutton Youth Radio Ltd	Takeover Radio 106.9	CR000169
Wythenshawe Community Media	Wythenshawe FM	CR000024 CDP105152

Ofcom considers that the failure to provide this information by the deadline set to be a serious matter. Failure by a licensee to submit an accurate finance report when required represents a serious and fundamental breach of a community radio licence, as the absence of the information contained in the report means that Ofcom is unable properly to carry out its regulatory duties.