

# Note of the Forty-Third Meeting of the Ofcom Community Radio Fund Panel

Held on Tuesday 28 January 2025 via Microsoft Teams

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## Chair's Introduction

1. The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

## Item 1: Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 July 2024

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 July 2024, previously circulated to the Panel, were **AGREED** as an accurate record

## Item 2: Matters Arising

3. There were no matters arising other than those being dealt with under items on the Agenda.

## Items 3 and 4: Grant Reports and sector update

4. The Panel **HEARD** a verbal report on the community radio sector.
5. The Panel were **INFORMED** about the general day to day activities in the licensing team, including the progress of SSDAB licensing, the volume of applications and awards, KC simplification, Community Radio Order 2025 and research into Social Gain commissioned by Ofcom.
6. The Panel were **INFORMED** of ongoing discussions between DCMS and Ofcom about the future of the Community Radio Fund. The Panel **HEARD** that DCMS were currently drawing up an agreement for the next funding period.
7. The Panel were **INFORMED** of two ongoing instances of misspent grant funds which Ofcom were seeking to recover.

## Item 5: Community Radio Fund applications

8. The Panel **NOTED** that 80 applications had been submitted, requesting grants totalling £1,852,282.
9. The Panel gave full and careful consideration to each application and awarded grants which amounted to a total of £261,476 to 15 applicants. A total of 65 applications from those under consideration were not awarded grants.

## Item 6: Summary of Decisions

10. It was **AGREED** that a statement would be drafted and signed off by the Chair on behalf of the Panel. This would then be published on Ofcom's website. It should include information on the grants, as well as issues of note, which were discussed and agreed by the Panel.

**Item 7: Any Other Business**

11. There were no additional matters raised.

**Item 8: Date of Next Meeting**

12. It was **AGREED** that the next meeting would be organised once confirmation from DCMS on the next funding term was received.
13. It was **AGREED** that a date for the meeting would be sent by email nearer the time.
14. There being no further business the meeting closed.