

8. Pennington, Mr A

Question 1: Should Eagle Radio Limited be permitted to make its proposed changes to the Format of Eagle Extra, with particular regard to the statutory criteria set out in Section 2 of this consultation document? (Section 106 (1A) of the 1990 Broadcasting Act, as amended, relating to Format changes).:

No - Eagle Extra should not be permitted to change the format on 1566 kHz as proposed.

The proposal to simply rebroadcast Premier Radio's programming on 1566 kHz amounts to handing over the licence and adding yet another transmitter to Premier Radio's mediumwave network. Premier Radio is already well heard in the area on 1413 and 1305 kHz so I can see no reason to add 1566 as well. Adding a relay on 1566 kHz would therefore reduce choice of listening in the area.

The original licence awarded to County Sound, now Eagle Extra, has always been a music-led format, especially including oldies and classic hits. The change proposed totally alters the format from a music-based local service to a regional talk format. There is no demand for more frequencies to be given over to Premier Radio in the London area, at least from this listener. Despite medium wave radio being deemed 'unfashionable', listeners such as myself enjoy the current music format on medium wave as currently provided a large part of the day and night by Eagle Extra.

But if Eagle Extra do not want to continue with a music based format on 1566 kHz medium wave, the licence for 1566 kHz should be open for others to bid for to continue to provide a music-based service locally or regionally on this frequency.