



Question: Do you have any comments on Ofcom's proposed Work Plan for 2026/27?

Response:

The Community Media Association (CMA) is a UK membership led representative body for community broadcasting, committed to promoting access to the media for all, and safeguarding the future of not-for-profit media.

Our mission is to enable people to establish media for cultural and creative expression, community development and entertainment.

AM/FM licences

We urge Ofcom to consult on issuing new FM (and AM) licences in 2026-27. Despite the rollout of SSDAB there remains substantial and unmet demand for licences, especially for FM licences.

The CMA understands that Ofcom is considering a consultation on this issue and we welcome the opportunity to engage with Ofcom on this.

SSDAB

Although Ofcom have now closed Round 8 of SSDAB we do not believe that this should mark the end of SSDAB development.

In several areas, demand significantly exceeds available capacity, and the introduction of additional SSDAB multiplexes would directly address this demand from aspiring community radio broadcasters.

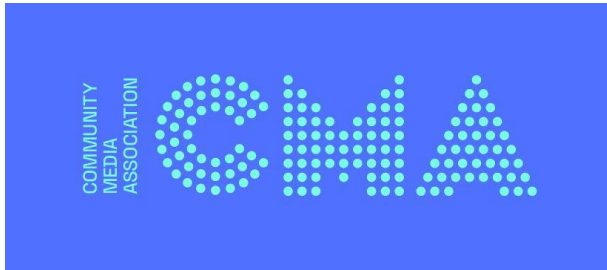
With appropriate and careful spectrum planning, the CMA believes there are clear opportunities for further SSDAB expansion.

Radio Selection Services (RSS)

The CMA is concerned that Ofcom will not hold the owners of the designated RSS (Amazon's Alexa, Google Assistant, and Apple's Siri) to account.

The Community Media Association is a company limited by guarantee registered at Companies House, number 02798488.

Registered Office: 311 Wimbledon Park Road, London SW19 6NP. Email: office@communitymedia.uk phone: 07905 314 275



For RSS providers, ensuring that community radio is properly supported represents a minimal cost. However, for community radio stations, ineffective RSS implementation risks making stations undiscoverable, with serious consequences for audience reach and the delivery of social gain.

Community Radio Fund

The CMA would like to place on record our appreciation of the large amount of work that Ofcom staff put into the administration of the Community Radio Fund, especially in 2025-2026 when the fund was increased to £1m.

The Community Media Association
February 2026

The Community Media Association is a company limited by guarantee registered at Companies House, number 02798488.

Registered Office: 311 Wimbledon Park Road, London SW19 6NP. Email:
office@communitymedia.uk phone: 07905 314 275