
Small-scale DAB: responses to Ofcom's call for expressions of interest

About this document

This document provides details of the responses Ofcom has received to our call for expressions of interest for small-scale DAB.

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1. Overview of responses

- 1.1 [Ofcom's call for expressions of interest](#) from parties who are interested in operating future small scale DAB multiplexes and/or who are interested in providing services on these multiplexes closed on 21 September 2018.
- 1.2 This document contains three maps and accompanying tabulated lists showing the geographic locations for which expressions of interest were received. As we did when we published our call for expressions of interest, we note that the exercise was intended to help us understand likely levels of demand from those wishing to operate small scale DAB multiplexes and services that may be carried on them. The expressions of interest do not confer any rights or obligations on respondents, and nor do the maps and lists we are now publishing.
- 1.3 The maps show a point indicating each location for which we received one or more expressions of interest. This point is at the approximate geographic centre of the coverage area aspiration expressed by the respondent.
 - Map 1 shows locations where one or more respondents indicated an interest in operating a small-scale multiplex.
 - Map 2 shows locations where one or more respondents indicated an interest in operating a programme service on a small-scale multiplex.
 - Map 3 shows locations where one or more respondents indicated an interest in operating both a small-scale multiplex and identified one or more programme services for it.
- 1.4 This document also contains accompanying tables showing the individual locations for which we received expressions of interest. There are three tables, each corresponding to one of the three categories above. The area names in the tables reflect the main area (locality, town, city or wider area) that respondents expressed an interest in serving. Where more than one expression of interest was received in the same location, the number of expressions of interest is shown.
- 1.5 Area names in these tables do not always exactly match the written description submitted by respondents. For example, this may be the case where there was a possible mismatch between a respondent's submitted coverage area map and its written description, or where multiple expressions of interest were received for broadly similar areas. We have also edited location names in a small number of cases to so as not to identify respondents.

2. General points for stakeholders to note on the expressions of interest responses

- 2.1 The Government has [in its recently published Government Response](#) confirmed its intention to limit the coverage area of each small-scale DAB multiplex to a maximum of 40% of the population served by the existing local commercial DAB multiplex in each area (if there is one). We note that some multiplex coverage aspirations received as part of the expressions of interest process exceed this limit.
- 2.2 Only a limited amount of transmission spectrum will be available for small-scale DAB, and it will not be possible for this resource to meet all the demand expressed as part of the expressions of interest process.
- 2.3 The practicality of respondents' coverage area aspirations (from both transmission and spectrum availability perspectives) will have to be assessed by Ofcom following these expressions of interest.
- 2.4 Ofcom will continue to develop spectrum planning scenarios based on the expressions of interest that we have received. However, we do not intend to define a final spectrum plan at this stage. Instead, our forthcoming consultation on the detailed implementation of the small-scale DAB licensing framework (which is expected to be published in 2019) will seek views on the principles we will use for planning the spectrum for SSDAB and the way we will apply those principles. It is important to note that there will be a range of allocation options, and the trade-offs and compromises associated with these options will be determined by Ofcom.
- 2.5 We have also received expressions of interest for serving the Channel Islands as part of this process. However, as Crown Dependencies, UK legislation (such as the enabling legislation for small-scale DAB) is not automatically adopted in the Channel Islands. It is not yet clear whether the administrations of Jersey and Guernsey will adopt the small-scale DAB legislation, though we hope that the situation will become clearer in due course.

Small-scale DAB: responses to Ofcom's call for expressions of interest

Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Gloucester	
Gloucestershire South	
Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft	
Guernsey	
Guildford	
Harrogate	
Hertfordshire	
Huddersfield, Dewsbury & Wakefield	
Hull	
Ipswich	Two expressions of interest
Isle of Wight	
Jersey	
Kings Lynn	
Leeds	Two expressions of interest
Leeds & Wakefield	
Leicester	
Lincoln	
Liverpool	
London - Central	Five expressions of interest
London - Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets	
London - North East	
London - South	
Ludgershall	
Luton	
Luton & Stevenage	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Wolverhampton & Telford	
Worcester	
Worcestershire	
York	

Map 3: small-scale DAB expressions of interest received for small-scale multiplexes with one or more programme services identified in the same expression of interest

Table 3: small-scale DAB expressions of interest for small-scale multiplexes with one or more programme services identified in the same expression of interest

Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Aberdeen	Three expressions of interest
Aberystwyth	
Abingdon, Wallingford & Didcot	
Aldershot & Woking	
Alton & Borden	
Alton, Petersfield, Haslemere & Bordon	
Andover	Three expressions of interest
Anglesey	
Anglesey & North Gwynedd	
Arbroath, Carnoustie & Montrose	
Armagh	
Ashford	
Ayr & Clyde Coast	
Ayr & Irvine	
Ballymena	
Banbury	
Banbury & Bicester	
Barnsley	
Barrow-in-Furness	
Basildon	
Basildon & surrounds	
Basingstoke	Two expressions of interest

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Basingstoke, Andover & Newbury	
Bath & Midsomer Norton	
Bath & NE Somerset	
Bedford	Two expressions of interest
Bedfordshire & Milton Keynes	
Belfast	Four expressions of interest
Belfast & Belfast Lough	
Belfast & Lisburn	
Belfast & surrounds	
Birmingham	Four expressions of interest
Birmingham - north	
Birmingham - south	
Blackburn	
Blackburn & Darwen	
Blackpool	Two expressions of interest
Bolton & Bury	
Boston	
Boston, Spalding & Skegness	
Bournemouth & Poole	Two expressions of interest
Bournemouth, Poole & Purbeck	
Bournemouth, Poole, Purbeck & Ringwood	
Bradford	Four expressions of interest
Bradford & Keighley	
Bradford & Leeds	
Bridgend	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Bridgewater	
Bridgewater & West Somerset	
Brighton	Two expressions of interest
Brighton & East Sussex	
Bristol	Three expressions of interest
Bristol - north	
Bristol - south	Two expressions of interest
Bromley	
Buckinghamshire	Two expressions of interest
Buckinghamshire - south	
Burton-on-Trent & Lichfield	
Bury St Edmunds, Thetford & Mildenhall	
Cambridge	
Cambridge & Ely	
Cambridge & Newmarket	
Canterbury	Two expressions of interest
Cardiff	Three expressions of interest
Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan	
Carlisle	
Carlisle & Penrith	
Channel Isles	
Chelmsford	Two expressions of interest
Chelmsford & Colchester	
Cheltenham & Gloucester	Two expressions of interest
Cheltenham & Gloucestershire	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Cheltenham, Gloucester & Tewksbury	
Cheshire - east	Two expressions of interest
Cheshire - mid	
Chester	
Chesterfield	
Chesterfield, Bakewell & Matlock	
Chichester & West Sussex	
Colchester	Two expressions of interest
Coleraine	
Colwyn Bay	Two expressions of interest
Corby & Surrounds	
Corby, Kettering & Market Harborough	
Coventry	Three expressions of interest
Coventry & Rugby	
Cumbernauld & Coatbridge	
Cumbria & The Lake District	
Darlington	
Darlington & Aycliffe	
Derby	Two expressions of interest
Derby & Burton-on-Trent	
Derry / Londonderry	
Devizes	
Doncaster	
Doncaster & Barnsley	
Dover, Folkestone & New Romney	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Dundee	Two expressions of interest
Dunfermline	
Durham	
East Lancashire	
Eastbourne	
Eastbourne, Newhaven & Lewes	
Edinburgh	Two expressions of interest
Edinburgh & Lothian	
Egham, N Surrey & SE Berks	
Ely	
Enniskillen	
Erewash District	
Exeter	
Exeter & Teignbridge	
Exmoor - south	
Exmouth	
Farnborough	
Folkestone	
Foyle - north-west	
Galashiels	
Glasgow	Eight expressions of interest
Glenrothes	
Glossop & Buxton	
Gravesend	
Great Yarmouth & Lowestoft	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Guildford	
Guildford & Woking	
Harlow	
Harrogate	
Harrogate & Skipton	
Haslemere, Alton & Farnborough	
Hastings	Two expressions of interest
Helensburgh	
Hertfordshire	Two expressions of interest
Honiton	
Honiton, Sidmouth & Ottery St Mary	
Huddersfield	
Huddersfield, Dewsbury & Wakefield	
Hull	Two expressions of interest
Humber - south	
Huntingdon & Surrounds	
Inverclyde	
Inverclyde & Helensburgh	
Ipswich	
Ipswich & Felixstowe	
Ipswich, Stowmarket & Wickham	
Isle Of Sheppey	
Isle of Wight	Three expressions of interest
Isles of Scilly	
Kendal & surrounding area	

Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Kettering & Huntingdon	
Kings Lynn	Two expressions of interest
Lanarkshire	Two expressions of interest
Lancaster	
Lancaster & Morecambe	
Leamington Spa & Stratford-upon-Avon	
Leamington Spa, Warwick & Kenilworth	
Leeds	Six expressions of interest
Leek & Biddulph	
Leicester	Three expressions of interest
Leicester, Coalville, Melton Mowbray	
Lincoln	
Lincoln & Newark-on-Trent	
Liverpool	Five expressions of interest
Liverpool, Birkenhead, Southport, St Helens	
Llanelli	
London - central	Two expressions of interest
London - east	Four expressions of interest
London - east & central	
London - north	Five expressions of interest
London - north-east	
London - south	Four expressions of interest
London - south-west	
London - west	Six expressions of interest
London & Thames Estuary	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
London North East & South West Essex	
South Moray Coast	
Loughborough	Two expressions of interest
Ludlow, Cleobury Mortimer & Tenbury Wells	
Luton	
Luton & Watford	
Lynton & Lynmouth	
Maidstone	Three expressions of interest
Maidstone & Medway Towns	
Manchester	Three expressions of interest
Manchester - central	
Manchester - east	Two expressions of interest
Manchester - north-west	
Manchester - south	
Manchester - south & Salford	
Manchester, Rochdale & Bolton	
Margate	
Margate & Ramsgate	
Medway Towns	Three expressions of interest
Mid Sussex	
Mid Wiltshire	
Middlesbrough	Three expressions of interest
Middlesbrough, Stockton Redcar & Cleveland	
Midlothian & South Midlothian	
Milton Keynes	

Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Milton Keynes, Brackley & Bicester	
Minehead & Watchet	
Monmouth	
Newark-on-Trent	
Newbury	
Newcastle	Two expressions of interest
Newmarket	
Newport	Two expressions of interest
Newport & Chepstow	
Newquay, St Austell & Truro	
Newry	
Newry & South Ulster	
Newton Abbot, Totnes & Buckfastleigh	
North Berkshire & South Oxfordshire	
North Kent	
North Norfolk	
North Sussex	
Northallerton	
Northampton	
Norwich	Three expressions of interest
Nottingham	Three expressions of interest
Nottingham & Mansfield	
Nuneaton & surrounds	
Oldham	
Oldham & Rochdale	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Omagh	
Oxford	
Oxford & Didcot	
Pembrokeshire	
Penistone & Stocksbridge	
Perth	
Peterborough	Three expressions of interest
Petersfield	
Plymouth	
Plymouth & South Hams	
Portadown	
Portsmouth	
Portsmouth & Northern Isle of Wight	
Portsmouth & Petersfield	
Powys	
Prestatyn	
Preston	Two expressions of interest
Preston & Chorley	
Reading	Three expressions of interest
Redhill & Reigate and surrounding areas	
Rhyl	
Richmond & Catterick	
Ripley	
Rotherham	
Royston	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Rugby	
Rutland & Stamford	
Saffron Walden	
Salford	
Salisbury & Shaftesbury	
Salisbury & Warminster	
Salisbury Plain	
Scarborough	
The Isles of Scilly	
Scottish Borders - eastern	
Sedgemoor	
Shaftesbury & Blandford Forum	
Shaftesbury & Wincanton	
Sheffield	Two expressions of interest
Sheffield & Rotherham	Two expressions of interest
Sidmouth	Two expressions of interest
Sittingbourne	Two expressions of interest
Skipton & Ilkley	
South Bucks District	
South Craven, Wharfedale, Worth Valley	
South East Devon	
South East Northumberland	
South Gloucestershire	
South Hams	
South Lincolnshire	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
South Oxfordshire	
South West Sussex	
Southampton	Four expressions of interest
Southampton & Winchester	
Southend	
Southport	
St Albans	
St Albans, Hemel, Watford & Welwyn	
St Neots	
St Neots, Huntingdon, Bedford & Cambridge	
Stirling	
Stirling & Falkirk	Two expressions of interest
Stirling, Falkirk & Dunfermline	
Stockport	Two expressions of interest
Stoke-on-Trent	Two expressions of interest
Stoke-on-Trent & Crewe	
Stourbridge, Dudley & West Bromwich	
Stratford-on-Avon	
Sunderland	
Sutton	
Swansea & Llanelli	
Swansea & Porthcawl	
Swindon	
Swindon & Cirencester	
Taunton Deane	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Teesside	
Telford & Shrewsbury	
Tendring	
The Wirral & Chester	
Thornbury & Almondsbury	
Tiverton	
Torbay & South Hams	
Tunbridge Wells & Sevenoaks	Two expressions of interest
Tunbridge Wells & Tonbridge	
Tyneside	
Tyneside - south	
Uckfield & surrounding towns	
Verwood	
Wakefield	Three expressions of interest
Warminster	
Warrington	Three expressions of interest
Watford	
Wearside	
Welsh Valleys	
West Lancashire	
Weston-Super-Mare	
Wetherby	
Weymouth & Bridport	
Weymouth, Dorchester & Bridport	Two expressions of interest
Widnes	

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Area	Number of expressions when more than one
Wigan	
Winchester	
Witney	
Wolverhampton	
Wolverhampton & Walsall	Two expressions of interest
Wolverhampton, Stourbridge & Kidderminster	
Worcester	Two expressions of interest
Worthing	Two expressions of interest
Yeovil	
Yeovil & Taunton	
York	Two expressions of interest
York & Malton	
Yorkshire Coast	