

Consultation response form

Consultation title	Ofcom's proposed Plan of Work
Full name	[X]
Contact phone number	[X]
Representing (delete as appropriate)	Organisation
Organisation name	Petersfield Community Radio Ltd
Email address	[X]

Your response

Question	Your response
Question 1: Do you have any comments on Ofcom's proposed Plan of Work 2024/25?	Confidential? – N

The Plan of Work proposal references supporting the Media Bill reforms. However, it does not acknowledge the provisions of Clause 42 within the legislation which permits Ofcom to issue new analogue FM radio licences where demand exists.

For rural and county-based community radio services, the current rollout of SSDAB multiplexes comes with a number of imperfections, not least a mismatch between SSDAB polygons and the natural geographic areas on which local community services are editorially centred.

We believe there are cases in which a path to FM will enable small-scale operators to deliver social gain in local communities without the geographic inefficiencies of the SSDAB polygon arrangements or the distractions associated with managing a multiplex.

Ofcom should plan to provide a licensing framework that meets the ambition of Clause 42. We suggest an arrangement similar to that established for DSP or C-DSP licensing may be appropriate.

We welcome the proposal to conduct a comprehensive and audience-centred review of Local Media across all platforms.