

Your response

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Question 1: Do you agree with the proposed broadcast licensing priorities for the short to medium term? Please give reasons for your answer.	We support Ofcom’s review of its licensing priorities; in particular an opportunity for new Local DAB multiplexes to serve large urban areas (in particular where numerous small-scale multiplexes are advertised to cover a city, where one new multiplex would provide efficient coverage using less transmitters).
Question 2: Do you consider that the proposed broadcast licensing priorities for the short to medium term will provide sufficient provision for audiences? Please give reasons for your answer.	Yes As noted in the consultation document, audiences are choosing to listen to radio digitally. Whilst we recognise that this is not universally possible for all audiences, the combination of streaming (and “smart speakers”) and DAB offers a good combination of accessibility and variety of services for listeners in a wide variety of listening scenarios.
Question 3: For post-launch SSDAB multiplex coverage improvement or extension requests only, do you agree with our proposed change in approach to our application of the rule which restricts overlap with local muxes to 40% of the population already covered by the local mux (the “40% ceiling”)? Please give reasons for your answer.	Yes. We believe that, where needed, small-scale multiplexes should be able to review opportunities to enhance coverage, say through power increases, where this eliminates gaps in coverage between transmitters (where they operate more than one). However, enhancements should not lead to any significant breaches of the 40% ceiling.
Question 4: Do you agree with Ofcom’s analysis in section 3 and at Annex A1 of the existing broadcast licence types? Please give reasons for your answer.	Yes We agree with the assessment that digital radio is aligned with changing listening habits, and that FM licensing should be used tactically where digital is not viable. We recognise that Ofcom’s analysis will be informed by the outcome of the ongoing DCMS Digital Radio & Audio Review, which is expected to publish its report by the end of 2026, followed by a government response in early 2027.

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Question 5: Do you agree with our assessment on the impact of our proposed broadcast licensing priorities for the short to medium term at Annex A3?	We are broadly supportive Ofcom's assessment of the impact of its licensing approach, including the positive impact of services that bring social, cultural and economic benefits to local and minority communities. In addition to the areas identified by Ofcom, consideration should also be given to the potential for incremental SSDAB overlap to erode listening and revenue for existing local multiplexes, whose ongoing operational viability is a strategically important element of the network relied upon by millions of listeners.
Question 6: Do you have any other comments to make on the proposals?	We recommend that Ofcom also consider how it will provide local multiplex operators with continued licence stability and renewal options, perhaps following the outcome of relevant recommendations within the Digital Radio & Audio Review. We would welcome clarification within the subsequent consultation statement on these issues, alongside further opportunities for stakeholders to engage with Ofcom as the market develops.

Please complete this form in full and return to broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk