

Mr Fergus Ó hÍr for Raidió Fáilte

Additional comments:

Question 1: Do you agree with the proposal to revise Key Commitments as set out in this consultation? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

Any change which reduces the level of bureaucracy and administration required by community radio stations is to be welcomed. Insofar as the proposed new Key Commitments do this they are to be welcomed.

The differentiation between original output and local output is somewhat unclear. One could imagine that most local input would be original.

The definition of what is local is especially unclear, for stations which are broadcasting to a scattered community of interest as in the case of Raidió Fáilte which broadcasts to a scattered community of Irish language speakers mostly living in Belfast but many living in areas outside of the city. Would an original report from an Irish language event ten or fifteen miles from the city be classified as local. It certainly is local to the Irish speakers listening to Raidió Fáilte in the area where the event took place (listening on the internet as they are in an area where the fm signal does not reach). If local means only the area that can listen to the service on the fm airwaves it does not reflect the reality for stations serving scattered communities of interest. Not reporting as local, events which are in fact local to listeners in scattered communities of interest does not make much sense.

This highlights again the desirability that stations serving such scattered communities, which have many of their listeners outside the current 5km broadcast limit, should be allowed to broadcast over a wider area. This would more realistically allow the definition of local to be the area where the station can be received on the fm airwaves