

**Mr Paul Crockett for The Voice**

**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.:**

Yes I agree that Key Commitments should be revised.

Community Radio stations are under tremendous pressure to survive, both financially and regulatory. The vast majority of CR station rely totally on volunteers, and so the relaxation of what have been very strict and inflexible regulations would ease the administrative pressure on the sector, freeing up time for organisation to concentrate spending their valuable time on serving their target audience more efficiently and producing quality community focused radio.

Relaxing the restrictive Key Commitments would also allow stations more time to explore opportunities to become financially sustainable. Despite the Community Radio Order 2015, which was a welcomed step in the right direction although didn't go anywhere near far enough to secure the sectors long term sustainability, it still faces huge financial challenges, which again can detract from its core purpose.

The requirements upon CR are far greater than those imposed on early ILR stations, and yet CR is expected to satisfy these requirements using hundreds of totally committed and enthusiastic, but in the main unqualified or inexperienced volunteers, and a severe lack of financial freedom.