

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Stan

Surname:

Druse

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:

No

If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:

Ofcom may publish a response summary:

Yes

I confirm that I have read the declaration:

Yes

Additional comments:

It is simply unfair that we in Armagh and the wider population of NI are not able to receive the range of digital stations that, not only GB residents, but those in Belfast can. May I add that it would surely be unthinkable for any other Government agency to suggest that many people are able to avail of the services already available to those who happen to live in major centres of population. It would be inaccurate to refer to a postcode lottery, since a lottery is chance, whereas digital radio coverage has been specifically planned and implemented to exclude hundreds of thousands of eagerly would-be listeners. Can we in Armagh and other areas please have equality of coverage ?

Question 1: Do you think that allowing Digital One to extend the coverage area of its national radio multiplex licence to include Northern Ireland would be calculated to maintain or promote the development of digital sound broadcasting in the UK otherwise than by satellite? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

I would like to equal access as others in the uk and Ireland - whatever the method of broadcasting ;

Question 2: Do you think that Digital One's proposals for providing coverage of Northern Ireland are satisfactory? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

they are not at present satisfactory, as people living in Belfast are able to listen to a far wider range of stations as we in other areas of NI. This is surely not justifiable on other than strategic grounds. I say strategic, with dismay, as i would expect that to be the criteria applied by the private sector.

Question 3: Do you consider that Digital One has the ability to maintain its national radio multiplex service if its request is granted? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

of course ; I know of the demand - albeit anecdotally. and one only has to look at web based forums to get a measure of the expectation, anticipation and indeed the disappointment relating to the long awaited arrival of digital coverage in NI.

Question 4: (For programme service providers on the national radio multiplex, and the holder of the Northern Ireland local radio multiplex licence and its service providers only) Do you consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect your rights and interests in the event that Digital One is permitted to extend coverage to include Northern Ireland?:

Question 5: Do you consider that there any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, the request from Digital One? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

one word then : fairness.