

Q1. 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.

While talkSPORT, Classic FM, Kiss and UCB UK are currently carried on the Northern Ireland local multiplex, the extension of Digital One's coverage will bring nine<sup>1</sup> new services to the airwaves for the first time. We therefore consider that this coverage extension would certainly promote the development of digital sound broadcasting in the UK.

Q2. Do you think that Digital One's proposals for providing coverage of Northern Ireland are satisfactory? Please explain the reasons for your view.

We believe the network of six transmitters is a well-considered and effective technical solution.

Q3. 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.

We consider that Digital One is more than able to maintain its multiplex service in the event Ofcom grant this coverage extension. Digital One's capacity is fully contracted making it a well supported and, we believe, profitable multiplex. Furthermore, Digital One sits within, and is supported by, the largest broadcast transmission services group in the UK, Arqiva; a well established company generating turnover in excess of £800 million from a diverse portfolio of business units.

Q4. (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?

From the perspective of a service provider on Digital One (talkSPORT), UTV's carriage agreement contains sufficient safeguards to protect its interests in the event that new sites are added to the network.

As a shareholder in Switchdigital (Scotland) Limited, UTV is happy with the package of measures put forward by Arqiva to mitigate the co-channel interference that its Central Scotland multiplex will suffer in the south west of its PPA. Switchdigital has also agreed with Arqiva that the transmitters that will cause this incoming interference will not be switched on until its new licence period commences in July 2013, thereby protecting all of the current services carried on the Central Scotland mux.

---

<sup>1</sup> This figure excludes the temporary Absolute and Smooth services that run from time to time.

Q5. 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.

We do not have any further views to put forward and believe Ofcom should approve this request.