

**Title:**

Ms

**Forename:**

Jocelyn

**Surname:**

Balment

**Representing:**

Self

**Organisation (if applicable):**

**Email:**

**What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:**

Keep part of the response confidential

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

Email address

**Ofcom may publish a response summary:**

Yes

**I confirm that I have read the declaration:**

Yes

**Ofcom should only publish this response after the consultation has ended:**

You may publish my response on receipt

**Additional comments:**

**Question 1: Do you think that allowing Now Digital to extend the coverage area of its Exeter & Torbay local radio multiplex licence to include North Devon would unacceptably narrow the range of DAB programme services available in the Exeter and Torbay area? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

Yes - it would mean that local radio services would be lost,

**Question 2: Do you think that allowing Now Digital to extend the coverage area of its Exeter & Torbay local radio multiplex licence to include North Devon 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.:**

No - They will only cover the areas they say and will not push to cover the whole of the South West.

**Question 3: Do you think that Now Digital's proposals for providing coverage of North Devon are satisfactory? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

No - They will not fully cover North Devon, if we were given local Radio Stations everywhere would have access to a radio service and the information on there would be relevant to that Area.

**Question 4: Do you consider that Now Digital has the ability to maintain its local radio multiplex service if its request is granted? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

Not sure

**Question 5: (For programme service providers on the Exeter & Torbay local radio multiplex only) Do you consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect your rights and interests in the event that Now Digital is permitted to extend coverage to include North Devon?:**

No

**Question 6: Do you consider that there any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, the request from Now Digital? Please explain the reasons for your view.:**

Ofcom should not approve Now Digital as they are not interested in making sure there is full coverage of all areas that they would cover. Their information would not be localised to each area they cover - they would only cover major areas and this would be a shame. Here in the South West we never seem to have the same services as other areas of the Country, as we are a wide area and some of it is very rural, having our own local radio coverage is a necessity as what is happening on the M5, on Exeter roads or Plymouth roads does not help you when you are going to Barnstaple!!! We need to keep local radio not a centralised Radio service.