

Title:

Ms

Forename:

Karen

Surname:

Beasant

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

karenlouisiana@hotmail.co.uk

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep nothing confidential

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

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.:

It won't affect Exeter and Torbay but it is likely to be unacceptable for North Devon.

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, because at the moment, as the consultation document suggests, it is only possible to broadcast to 70% of the area which excludes the town of Ilfracombe. This is a busy tourist area and I believe that if the town is without a DAB radio service this could impact adversely on the image of digital radio, not just with locals but for the wider community including tourists from all over the UK and beyond. It took a while for Ilfracombe to be included on the FM Transmitter for Lantern FM (now Heart) I think this will be viewed adversely in the area and seen generally as a step backwards in technology rather than forwards. I believe that it would be wrong to implement DAB in the area until a higher percentage of the population can be reached.

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, 70% coverage isn't adequate.

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.:

Yes, they are a very large company.

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?:

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.:

I believe that due to paragraph 2.15 of the consultation document that the application should not be approved. If the application is approved the good work being done by the Voice North Devon will be stopped. The people of the area want and need a truly local station in addition to the regional service provided by Heart. If allowing Now Digital to extend their coverage to North Devon precludes the broadcasting of a local station for just the North Devon Area then I believe it should not be approved. There should be a local service in addition to the regional station provided by Heart, as the geographical area covered does not allow for the quality and quantity of local traffic and community information needed by the people of the area, particularly in times of bad weather.