

Title:

Ms

Forename:

Samantha J

Surname:

Bradley

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

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:

I would urge REFUSAL of this proposal for the reasons listed below

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.:

This is about North Devon, and so it is up to Now Digital to be concerned about the affect it would have on Torbay and Exeter

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.:

I do not understand this question

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.:

Most unsatisfactory, and with some strange goings on! One of the transmitters is proposed to be erected in Okehampton, and I would like to know why?? Okehampton is not in North Devon, and so it does not any sense at all. This consultation is about North Devon, - yet the proposal suggests we are now going to start covering into Cornwall almost, with OUR North Devon service! This is not acceptable. The figures state that 53% of North Devon will be covered with the first transmitter, and then the other two will follow when the government commits fully to digital. This could be at any time, lets be honest. Basically, for one 'token gesture' of a dab transmitter at Huntshaw Cross, the existing licence holder of the local FM licence gets to hold onto it. I thought we are supposed to be talking about North Devon? Huntshaw cross will not transmit to much of this area, one of the next two transmitters isn't even in North Devon, - and the third isn't even going to serve the seemingly forgotten Ilfracombe area and the coast! This would all appear very very substandard indeed. With the hills, I would imagine lots and lots of transmitters would be needed, and in an area of substantial natural beauty and unspoilt nature, I am not convinced this is the way forward. FM works very well here in North Devon, and I would say that it is an area that, for the considerable future, can well do without yet more aerials and transmitters, - especially arrising from a very poor application like the one now being considered, which looks like a last minute thrown-together attempt for the current licence holder to hang on to their licence.

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.:

No views

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 views

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.:

This application should be REFUSED on the grounds listed above alone.

I believe its an attempt for the existing licence holder to hang on to their FM licence, - and since the closure of our local Barnstaple station the service for a so called 'local' station has been sub standard in the highest possible terms. The loss of local information, and general willingness to get involved with North Devon has been deeply felt.

It was this groups decision to merge, - probably adding to their profits rather than getting the station out of financial danger as I understand that the ofcom relaxed guidelines were intended to help. We are not satisfied with the service now provided, and being that the licence is due for renewal, it would be a severe injustice to us as listeners to allow this station to hold on to the licence as a result of the submission of this totally unacceptable and inadequate digital proposal.