

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Philip

Surname:

Byers

Representing:

Organisation

Organisation (if applicable):

Project (SW) Ltd

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:

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.:

No, we do not think it would unacceptably narrow the range available to Exeter and Torbay. We are more concerned it will unacceptably further narrow services in 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 view on this, dont know

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. Current FM reception is poor/non existent in parts of North Devon and Digital coverage will be even less. When FM is turned off if we do not have our own true local digital transmitter then coverage will be unacceptable.

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 view on this matter

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 view on this matter

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.:

Yes, there are other grounds that should be considered by Ofcom. It should not be approved as Heart should not be given an automatic right to carry on broadcasting in North Devon. They could withdraw the service completely or substantially reduce it at any point in the future. Heart is not local or really interested in us here in North Devon, other than for our money. North Devon is very isolated and we rely on local radio particularly in bad weather and communication with our many holiday visitors, tourism is of major importance to our economy here. What is broadcast as local in Exeter, Torbay and Plymouth is not local to us! We need the FM Licence to be re-advertised to give a chance of real local radio by locals for locals to be brought back to North Devon and maintained for future generations.