

Title:

Ms

Forename:

Michelle

Surname:

Clarke-watkin

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:

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

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 matter

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.:

On looking at the plans, when the FM signal is turned off, it is very unlikely that North Devon will get a good DAB signal. This is akin to when the analogue tv signal was turned off; prior to this I could receive excellent Freeview reception, but now that we only have the digital signal, reception is appalling. We should retain the right to have a CHOICE, as this area is quirky due to geographical nature.

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.:

This request should NOT be approved as it means that Heart get an automatic right to continue broadcasting in North Devon on the promise that they will provide a digital signal at some point in the future. Heart Radio is NOT local or relevant to the population of North Devon, and the fact that Exeter and Plymouth are both some 60+ miles distant does not make them local to us. Also, Heart only broadcast 7 hours relevant to North Devon, and North Devon is a big and diverse area. We need our LOCAL radio, which is relevant to us who live here, as it is a useful tool for disseminating information that is relevant to the local communities. I chair a local residents group, and our local radio station is invaluable for publicising meetings etc - Heart WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN DOING THAT! I cannot stress enough the importance of North Devon retaining a LOCAL and INDEPENDENT radio station that is pertinent to us as a community.