

Title:

Mr

Forename:

David

Surname:

Cosh

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:

Yes

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.:

Currently, North Devon's ability to make use of the full range of DAB is not as complete as other parts of the UK.

The key phrase here is 'NORTH DEVON'. Why should NORTH DEVON be adversely affected by what happens in SOUTH DEVON, i.e. Exeter and Torbay.

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 agree. Now Digital's aims are focused on widening digital broadcasting, but at the expense of providing local, relevant entertainment and news. Their approach is a 'one size fits all' approach. I do not think this is in line with wider technology that is aimed at delivering relevant information, news, music etc to individuals and communities.

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.:

Now Digital's proposal to extend their coverage is based on financial principles only. NOT on providing relevant, LOCAL news, information and culture. It's big business, not local radio. As a larger broadcaster, they cannot supply the needs of ALL the smaller regions in the Devon area. Hence, traffic news about Torbay and Plymouth listened to by people in Barnstaple - no use whatsoever! Equally, in times of adverse weather, are they going to be able to read out ALL the names of the closed schools in Devon? I don't think so!

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.:

They won't be able to maintain a truly local service.... they are in EXETER.... we're in BARNSTAPLE. Last time I looked... Exeter was 60 miles away. Even if you're not familiar with our local geography... I'm hoping you don't think 60 miles is local.

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?:

If you've been reading my responses... you may well have detected a note of negativity regarding Now Digital's proposal. So, no I don't think there are any safeguards for the local population.

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.:

As a contributor to the wages of the doubtless hundreds of Ofcom employees (via my extortionate taxes) that Ofcom would do as their 'employer' asks, and re-instates Hopps and Chapple as soon as possible.