

Dear Ms Jackson

Proposed changes to radio in North Devon

I am writing to you as a resident of a small village between Ilfracombe and Combe Martin, on the north coast of North Devon.

I am very concerned about your proposed plans to change the way in which we listen to local radio in North Devon, and in particular the northern most reaches.

My family and I are big radio fans, and we enjoy listening to local radio not just for music and entertainment, but also for local news and information.

From what I understand, I gather that the village I live in is unlikely to receive the new digital service, and in light of the fact that the plan would be to turn off the current FM service which we currently enjoy. This proposal would leave us without any local radio service what so ever, be it Heart, BBC Radio Devon, or any future local radio station.

Therefore I object most strongly to this current proposal as it stands because it would deny parts of the region of North Devon of radio services it currently receives, and therefore would be a hugely retrograde step in this age of advanced technology. I can't believe that Ofcom would approve of this application.

If Ofcom were to go ahead and approve this application it would severely affect the lives of many people in the area in which I live. As the foundation governor of our local school I know from experience that in times of inclement weather how important a local radio station in North Devon is. Giving updates of school and road closures which are extremely important in a rural community.

I ask you to reconsider this application which will not only reduce reception of a regional radio station, but also deny north Devon the chance of ever having its own local radio station. I understand that if this proposal is accepted, the current local radio licence will not be re advertised.

Since Heart have relocated to Exeter their local content for north Devon has been vastly reduced. Devon is the second largest county in the UK, and there is a big difference between north and south Devon. How can

one station in south Devon ever hope to cover such a vast area with in depth local information, which we have enjoyed previously for 20 years.

Lives and businesses could be severely affected by not having a local radio station with detailed local knowledge of this area.

I understand that Ofcom operates under the Communications Act 2003.

The Act says that *“Ofcom’s general duties should be to further the interests of citizens and of consumers. Meeting these two duties is at the heart of everything we do”*.

On your website you state *“We make sure that people in the UK get the best from their communications services”*

Therefore in approving this application, it would not *“further the interests of citizens and of consumers”* in north Devon, and it would not allow us to *“get the best from their communications services”*, for the reasons I have given above.

Yours sincerely

Teresa Grattan