

Title:

Mr

Forename:

David

Surname:

Jeffery

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, I think that it would be just the same as now for Exeter and Torbay, whilst North Devon would just be ignored as if we weren't here at all.

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.:

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, we are a long way from Exeter area up here in North Devon, and experience from losing our local Lantern Radio broadcast from up in Barnstaple to a Heart programme broadcast from Exeter has show us how little relevance the North of this county has to the Exeter area by how little coverage of anything we get.

Would you expect a licence based in Manchester to cover Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool and Bradford as well? As they are all closer than we are in Barnstaple to Exeter.

There are over 100000 people in the local area, and a local radio ran well, providing local coverage of news, weather and traffic (amongst other things) which was relevant to us. We don't get that anymore, and this would just make it worse.

And this is before the consideration that almost a third of North Devon cannot receive a digital radio signal of even sub-standard quality. It will become a radio silence black hole for a lot of people.

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.:

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?:

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.:

OFCOM should NOT approve on the grounds that I don't want DAB to take over my local station and to lose even more of a local feel to what I listen to. Local dj's care about local interests, charities and people as they're part of our community. Why do we have to be forced to have what isn't right for our small towns, just because some money making scheme decides it, just because it's, supposedly, technologically better.

Better coverage does not make it right. It makes it intrusive and I don't want it!

It is bad enough we lose our local station, to be replaced by Heart Exeter (which provides extremely little information about anything happening up here) but a digital licence would

kill it completely and lose any chance of our hope of a local service again.

I will also re-iterate that almost a third of North Devon cannot receive a digital radio signal of even sub-standard quality. It will become a radio silence black hole for a lot of people. Ofcom should say no. And then allow us to have a licence for a local station, for local people, that we care about.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope you will take consideration on these arguments.