

Title:

Mr

Forename:

James Alan

Surname:

Rowlands

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.:

I have no knowledge of radio coverage in the Exeter and Torbay area.

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, I don't think any such calculation would satisfactorily develop digital broadcasting in North Devon because historically the coastal area of North Devon is a Cinderella area provided with the very minimum of coverage by any and all TV and radio services. We have poor FM reception, poor terrestrial TV and adequate digital TV and radio only via SKY Satellite. I do not think the situation will change without serious demand from OFCOM.

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, because I have no insight into how Now Digital intends to cover the difficult coastal region around Ilfracombe and Combe Martin. I DON'T THINK THEY WILL MAKE AN ESPECIAL STUDY UNLESS PRESSED.

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.:

I HAVE NO SUCH OPINION

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 are any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, the request from Now Digital? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

Without full and extensive examinations of the worries I have outlined, I DO NOT consider OFCOM should approve the request. As I understand it, the extension to North Devon will result in radio coverage only via DAB, and FM will be turned off. As I have no faith that DAB will be properly and clearly available to the North Coastal Area, even if I wished to purchase DAB radios for my home and cars (which I don't), I am very worried that we will lose ALL radio services.