

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Adam

Surname:

Symons

Representing:

Organisation

Organisation (if applicable):

Clovelly and Woolsery (Cllr)

Email:

councillor.symons@torridge.gov.uk

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.:

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 - because:

- If the South Devon DAB service is extended to North Devon, the current local FM transmitters will ultimately be switched off for good, and potentially as early as 2015.
- If that happens, all the FM radio's you currently have in your home and your car will become obsolete and to hear the services you presently listen to on your present radio once those services are switched off, you will HAVE to replace them with DAB radio's.
- The proposal would initially provide coverage of only 53% of North Devon households, with a proposed coverage of only 70% of households in future years.
- This means that using their figures, once the FM transmitters are switched off, 30% of those who currently listen to local commercial radio AND BBC Radio Devon in North Devon will no longer be able to receive a signal.
- North Devon and Torridge will be denied the opportunity to re-establish a genuinely local FM radio service for this community in the future because the present local FM licence would not be re-advertised

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.: