

**Title:**

**Forename:**

**Surname:**

**Representing:**

Self

**Organisation (if applicable):**

**Email:**

**What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:**

Keep name 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 believe that extending the license into the North Devon area may lead to the loss of valued local stations in North Devon and lead to greater centralisation of Radio services. I am also concerned about the availability of Digital services to Local regional areas as opposed to the FM signal which may be able to be tuned into in places that DAB transmissions may not reach.

**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.:**

Based on the current services being offered I am unconvinced that coverage of North Devon would be satisfactory were this change made. Heart radio is supposed to be a local radio service however studios are now located a long way away from some parts of North Devon this makes having locally relevant guests more difficult. Also it has been my experience that heart radio has little interest in reporting the smaller details of Whats on diaries for my local community. We are told they need a story angle and cannot just tell people what is going on.

**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.:**

A successful application for a digital service will mean automatic continuation of the area's FM licence currently held by Global Radio, broadcasting on 96.2 and 97.3 FM as Heart. (as mentioned above in question3)

This is problematic for the area in my opinion as I do not believe heart is able to provide all of the radio services which our local community needs.

Although I believe that heart does very well at providing information on local school closures etc when the area is hit by floods or snow BBC Radio Devon is often more informative. And I don not believe that a listener could get a "feel for" our area by tuning in to Heart.

My confidence that "matters of local importance, relevance or interest to the target audience in the area will be broadcast" is very limited after having experienced hearts responses to local news items.

I believe that phone conversations with those from areas where studios are not located is not good enough when providing "content drawn from, and / or relevant to the station's licensed area." Although of course North Devon is a wide and varied area with many regional and difficult to get to parts, and therefore if FM services were supported by not accepting this

application it still would not be possible to have local radio stations everywhere, there would at least be oppourtunities for Local radio to be accesable and interactive in major towns such as Barnstaple.

As part of the Digital Economy Bill (DEB), once digital radio services are in place it is possible that some FM transmitters would be switched off. I consider this to be an unacceptable drop in the availability and choice in radio programmes for the area. As I am not convinced that adaquate DAB coverage will be able to be achieved and it would lead to some staions being unable to continue to broadcast.