

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.:

No it wouldnt change the availability for South Devon. Why ask this question when it is North Devon that will be affected

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.:

Yes it would encourage take up. But is it what the North Devon people want?

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.:

Having lived in Ilfracombe during the 1990's we were unable to receive Lantern FM until a new relay was installed in early 2000. All we received were the South Wales stations. With these proposals as they stand, once again Ilfracombe will be left without local radio, in whatever format it comes, when FM is turned off

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.:

n/a

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?:

n/a

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.:

Yes, the people of North Devon want a true local radio station that relates to the people of North Devon.

In recent days Heart has advertised in the local papers and has had lots of "local" material in the papers. They have now been broadcasting "local" news bulletins for the area. So surely that is an admission of guilt.

Now of course what this will be doing will be accepted by OFCOM as following the local guidelines.

This is simply not good enough.

In your own report : <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/radio-research/digital-radio-reports/report210710.pdf> you state that OFCOM have the responsibility to sufficient plurality of broadcasters to an area. If this proposal goes through then we may have a plurality of DAB. However the term "LOCAL" is a mockery. What local stations do we get. Kiss, Gold, NME, Capital and others - all which are now National. This does not offer any more local radio to North Devon that identifies with North Devonians

The report further states that OFCOM have to encourage effective competition. How will allowing the DAB proposals go through allow effective competition. This will enable Global Radio broadcasting as Heart to gain an automatic renewal for 7 years unchallenged this first time. They will probably only have to install 1 of the proposed DAB transmitters during this time and will be able to portray themselves falsely as LOCAL radio for North Devon. So do we have to support the campaign for a further 7 years until the licence becomes available again

The same report states an appropriate amount of local material should be broadcast on each local licence. The effect of the closure of the Barnstaple office has been that less local information is given out

The local tourist industry and event holders are now cancelling their events due to lack of public awareness

Only today, Wednesday 29th June, the Bideford Folk Festival has cancelled their major event in 2011 due to lack of interest and ticket sales.

This is one area where local radio can be backing such events and integrating orally on air about such events and encouraging participation

Instead we get staid presentation and repetitive music from London that in no way conforms to the local guidelines laid down in your own rules -

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/radio/localness/localness-guidelines>

Your own title states you are an Independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries.

This consultation is going to be a sham.

The whole problem with your consultation on DAB in North Devon is that it is not the real question that people want to answer. Now is the time OFCOM should stand up and prove yourselves to be a true unbiased adjudicator. Now is the time for OFCOM to say enough is enough - to halt the decline of local radio in the UK and enable the North Devon people their wish

To have a local radio based in North Devon - to provide new jobs and investment into the area, to recognise that North Devon, Barnstaple, Bideford and the other towns in the area are not affiliated to Exeter or Plymouth. The traffic on the M5, the traffic in Newton Abbott and the Tor Point ferries have no bearing on our every day lives.

If a listener in Leeds was to hear traffic information about Manchester would they call that local? What about Oxford traffic in Birmingham?

These proposals have been hastily put together by Global and Now Digital in order to do one thing and one thing only - not to care about the infrastructure in Digital - Ashley Tabor himself said he didn't want to invest in digital until more funding was found by the BBC - but purely a cynical and calculated application to get an extension of the analogue licence thus protecting their business plan and their idea that a national radio station is what they want to make Heart

I thoroughly oppose the extension of DAB. Using your own rules, guidelines and reports OFCOM you really have no choice.

If this decision is granted then you might as well allow every other request that GMG, Bauer or Global request. You may as well allow them to alienate many listeners across the country and as a n organisation you will be left tainted and open to accusations of collusion with the radio groups. Rather than protecting the industry you will simply be protecting yourself