



CN RADIO'S RESPONSE TO OFCOM'S "FUTURE OF RADIO" CONSULTATION

CN Radio supports the views expressed in the Radio Centre's response on behalf of the whole industry, however we would like to reinforce 2 points in particular that reflect the specific issues faced by our Group.

CN fully supports the proposed relaxation of format requirements and in fact would prefer this to go even further. We strongly support the lowering of locally produced hours for smaller stations. We do not understand the need to wait until digital listening reaches a predetermined figure and would urge Ofcom to allow this deregulation as soon as possible.

There is much confusion about where Digital is going - will it be DAB, DRM or some other yet unheard of type of digital carriage? Digital carriage in its present form is very expensive for small stations relative to their potential income. The proposal to align license end dates and establish 2 year rolling periods seems to indicate that there is a plan to switch off analogue within the next 10 years. This would currently have huge implications for many of our licenses as only 2 have digital carriage. As we have previously stated the cost of digital carriage for others would be completely cost prohibitive and therefore make those stations unviable.

For this reason we cannot understand Ofcom's plan to end licences in 2015. We feel that until there is a clear way forward for all stations to have a viable digital future, Ofcom should not consider setting a specific end date. There needs to be a cohesive plan that encompasses both large and small groups which is thoroughly researched and thought through.

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