

## **What are your comments on these proposals?**

As there are so many suggestions above marked with an asterisk, I feel that this would be over-legislating! My personal view is that community radio licences are awarded too freely and without due consideration of the financial implications. For example, once a station has received a licence, its funding-power dramatically increases as so does the social status which contributes to its overall sustainability. Positive for those stations run properly, but a virtual 'open cheque-book' for those who do not fulfill the 'key commitment' areas. I am very concerned that it appears from some of these proposals that the entire system is being relaxed to such an extent that there is little scrutiny as to how these stations are actually being run. The requirement for 'Social gain' is almost impossible to define (as provided by the existing legislation) and therefore further amendments might not assist; however, I agree that it is imperative it is retained and where possible - monitored somehow, in order to keep a system of checks and balances in place and so avoid abuse of the system.

Rather than over-legislating, I would prefer to see a form of constructive vigilance and active upholding of the existing legislation with regard to community radio stations. This would not need to be so intrusive as to inhibit creativity; it could be incorporated into a supporting mechanism over time. With regard to 6.10\*, in addition to including volunteer time in assessing turnover of service, perhaps Ofcom might introduce a Volunteer Members' Panel requirement, which might also serve to provide an accurate reflection of how things are actually being run.