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Representing: WIB Ltd Walsall FM community radio

What are your comments on these proposals?

I think Ofcom should look at the funding of community radio Station's, as from 2008 funding from the EU will be cut so there will be a smaller amount of funding money available.

All community radio station's are "not for profit" this will be in their constitution or articles & memorandums this therefore is their main part of their criteria & social gain for a community radio licence. I think that the community radio station should if it feels the need due to difficulty obtaining funds from other sources be allowed to fund 100% via on air advertising as they are locked in to not distributing any surplus monies to any of the people managing or directors but to reinvest in the station and its community. The lifting of the 50% ceiling would give stations a fighting chance to survive as some stations will and in some cases have folded.

This relaxation of the 50% rule WOULD NOT in anyway change the spirit of community radio and would not brake the community radio bill.

Also the ownership rule should be amended as this would help in failing community radio station's, if you had two or three community radio station's in close proximity to each other two were failing the other was growing then it would make sense if the successful station could take in the other two. This would strengthen community radio as it has done for the commercial sector. None of the points I have raised would change what community radio is and should be but to enhance it.