

Radio Restricted Services Consultation

I would like to reply to question one of the above consultation

I agree that at times there must be certain changes to existing rules and at a time that new community radio and new community stations win licenses this has a knock on effect with amount of frequency's available and a decline in the number of groups applying for licences having gained their full time licence.

However as a current community radio applicant and the restriction of 50 per cent advertising for that licence feel that any rs1 activity in any areas of the UK where new community radio stations are getting started would not help the station to get off the ground.

A commercial station would overcome this but a community station could find it hard even with the proposed rule change.

My alternative would be following –

No rs1 activity in an area where a new commercial or community station is due to be for a period of 6 months (2 months before launch and 4 months after launch)

And to safeguard community radio stations --- rs1s can only operate per year per group in the opening year of a new community radio station.

I would like to reply to question 3

Any other areas of policy

It stands to reason that if a new commercial station launches or a new community radio station that groups that apply for licences under the heading "trial stations" – OFCOM need to clarify why this is a trial service in an area that has gained a full time station. Community radio groups who are applying for a trial for a different audience target is good however trial groups applying for a licence for a trial service should be made to clarify how it differs.

Mr M.D. Lawrence
BR-FM