
Community radio: Improvements to existing coverage and coverage extensions

Technical change request form

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Contents

Section

[1. Applicant's details](#)

[2](#)

[2. Current transmission details](#)

[3](#)

[3. Details of proposed change](#)

[4](#)

[4. Modification to an existing transmission site\(s\)](#)

[9](#)

[5. Proposed move of the transmission site](#)

[10](#)

[6. Proposed additional transmission site\(s\)](#)

[12](#)

Annex

[A1. Additional request forms for transmission sites](#)

[14](#)

Overview

This form should be used for any requests relating to a change in the transmission arrangements of an analogue community radio service, such as:

- changing the transmission parameters at an existing transmission site (e.g. increasing the power of a transmitter or changing the aerial height or pattern);
- changing transmission site; or
- adding a new transmission site (for a relay).

Complete all relevant parts of this form and provide coverage maps as appropriate. Incomplete forms may result in your application being unsuccessful.

Before completing this form, applicants are strongly advised to read the separate guidance document.

Technical change request form

2.4 National Grid Reference:

DS 54278 29120

2.5 Site height (aod):

33m

2.6 Antenna height (agl):

55m

2.7 Aerial pattern:

Omnidirectional

2.8 Frequency:

103.2 MHZ FM

2.9 Transmission power:

50w (17dbw) 25w HP 25w VP

2.10 If you currently have more than one existing transmission site, please let us know and complete one set of details for the additional existing transmission site(s) in Annex 1.

There is more than one existing transmission site and I have completed the details of additional existing site(s) in Annex 1, Part A.

Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

3. Details of proposed change

Improvement to existing coverage or coverage extension

3.1 Do you request an improvement to existing coverage or a coverage extension? See Section 3 of the guidance document for further information.

Licensees should first check the technical conditions in their WTA licence and assess if there might be scope for changing or upgrading equipment in order to improve the radio signal while remaining within the limits authorised under the WTA licence and community radio licence as it stands now.

I am requesting an improvement to existing coverage within the licensed coverage area (please complete Part 3a) – **No**

I am requesting a coverage extension of the licensed coverage area (please complete Part 3b) – **Yes**

Technical change being applied for

- 3.2 Please indicate below which technical change(s) you are applying for. In paragraphs 3.6 – 3.35 of the guidance document we describe some technical changes for which you might apply.

I want to change the transmission parameters at an existing transmission site, e.g. a power increase, changing the aerial height or pattern (please complete Section 4) – **Yes / No (delete as appropriate)**

I want to change the location of the transmission site (please complete Section 5) – **Yes / No (delete as appropriate)**

I want to add a new transmission site (please complete Section 6) – **Yes / No (delete as appropriate)**

- 3.3 If you are requesting a combination of changes or if you want to provide multiple options (see paragraphs 2.12 – 2.13 in the guidance document), please explain why:

3a. Coverage improvement

Complete this section if you are requesting to improve the existing coverage within your licensed coverage area. See sections 3.36-3.44 of the guidance document for further information. If you refer to annexes such as maps or evidence, please list them in section 3.4. Your application may be unsuccessful if you do not provide all the information requested. If you are requesting a coverage extension of the licensed coverage area, please skip to Section 3b.

Outline of proposed change

- 3.4 Describe the areas in which you want to improve your existing coverage within the licensed coverage area and provide evidence of poor coverage or significant and harmful incoming interference in your licensed coverage area, including a map in which you have marked the areas in which you want to improve your coverage¹.

- 3.5 Set out details of the change(s) you wish to make to your transmission arrangements, and explain why you think this is the best technical solution:

¹ Please refer to the [licensed coverage area map](#) of your area on our website.

3.6 Provide a list of the annexes (maps and any other evidence). Your application may be unsuccessful if you do not provide all the information requested. You can expand the table if necessary:

Annex number	Name	Short description

3b. Extension of existing coverage

Complete this section if you are requesting to extend your licensed coverage area. See sections 3.45-3.52 of the guidance document for further information. If you refer to annexes such as maps or evidence, please provide a list at section 3.14 below. Your application may be unsuccessful if you do not provide all the information requested.

Outline of proposed change

- 3.7 Please provide a reasoned argument for the extension of existing coverage, including:
- a) a description of the area you wish to extend existing coverage to (e.g. the streets, council ward or town), along with a map illustrating the area concerned (with the requested area marked or circled)²;
 - b) the reason why you are requesting an extension of coverage into this area;
 - c) an estimate of the size of the population in the area you wish to extend into, the source of this information (e.g. local council statistics), and any evidence of demand or support for the service in the extended area;
 - d) whether the area or locality into which you are extending existing coverage has a relationship or affinity to the existing licensed area, and a description of that relationship or affinity;
 - e) whether there are any exceptional circumstances which would justify an increase that would be reasonably considered “significant”;

² Please refer to the [licensed coverage area map](#) of your area on our website.

Technical change request form

- f) a short description of how the station will provide a radio service for the target community in the extended area; and
 - g) any other reasons for the request that you wish us to consider.
- 3.8 Set out details of the change(s) you wish to make to your transmission arrangements, and explain why you think this is the best technical solution:

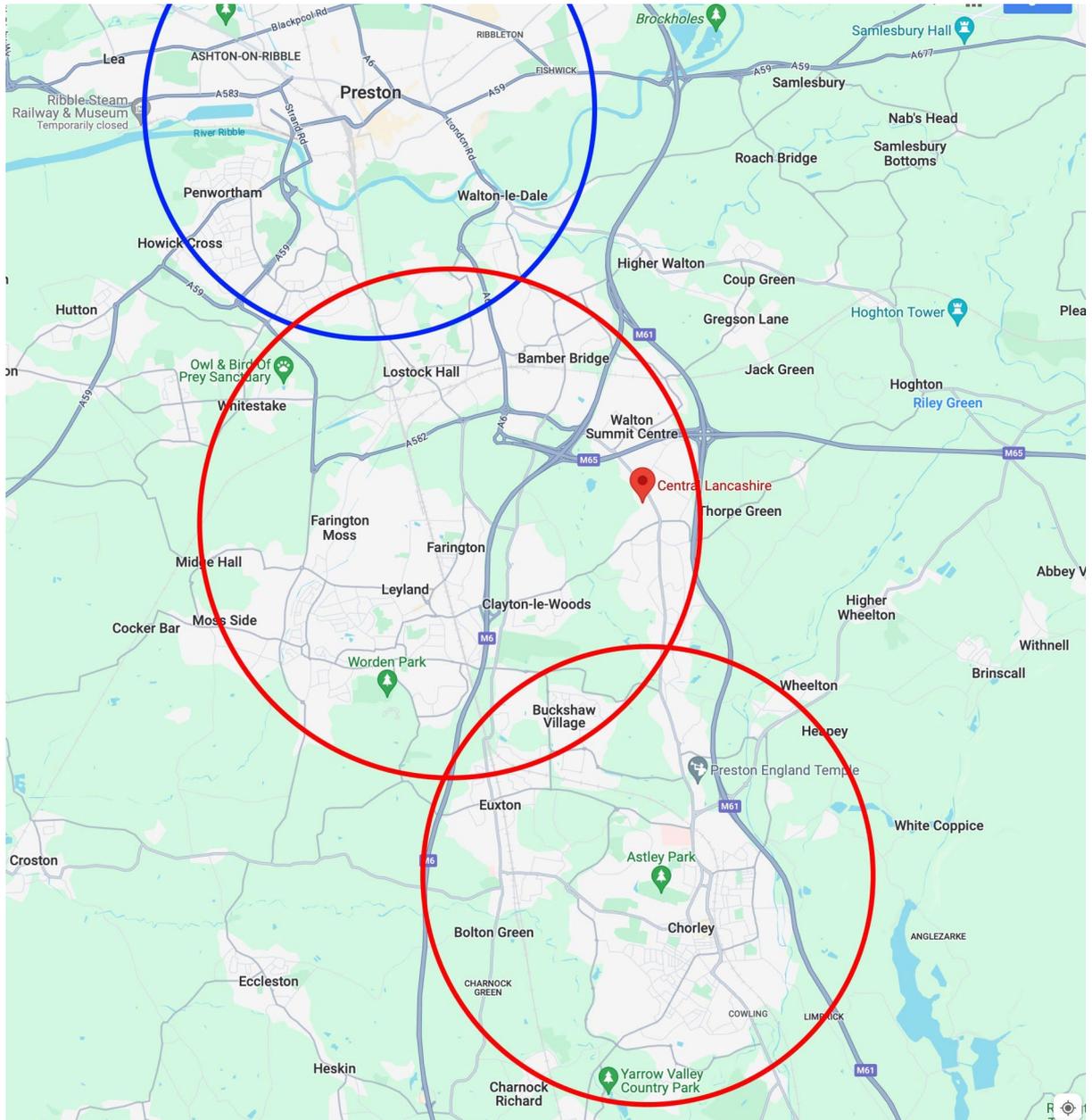
Increased power at Sandown Court to cover South Ribble and Chorley

- 3.9 Describe the area you wish to extend existing coverage into:

South Ribble and Chorley

- 3.10 Explain why you are requesting an extension into this area:

Technical change request form



Preston Community Radio has been serving Preston and the surrounding communities for 15 years. Providing a community radio service, media training and a space to let local people get creative with music and media.

The city has been on a steady growth, with private and council investment and will continue to grow with the new animate project opening in the next year, driving more people into the city and surrounding communities to study, work and enjoy what Central Lancashire has to offer.

South Ribble and Chorley have always been seen to be an outer communities to Preston and more recently due to housing shortages within the city, more people are moving outside of the city into outer towns such as Leyland, Longton, Chorley, Bamber Bridge due to city housing shortages.

Technical change request form

We believe we need to push our service to cover these outer communities rather than exclude them from a local community service. These areas are actively trying to engage with the station including community groups, local people, small businesses and charities.

Communities are connecting with us because there isn't a local community station in there area, especially one offering the characteristics of service, media training opportunities and a local service that cares to take part in community events. We hope to fill that gap, with an extension into our communities.

Allowing the station to increase broadcast to these areas, will in fact increase the stability and future of the station, reaching more volunteers to take part in the service, which will then help us to deliver even more local and original hours for broadcast.

- 3.11 Describe the size of the population, the source of this information, and any evidence of demand or support for the service in the extended area:

Chorley – 41,364 (Census 2021)

South Ribble – 110,00 (Census 2021)

- 3.12 Describe any relationship or affinity the area or locality into which you are extending existing coverage has with the existing licensed area:

South Ribble and Chorley are widely classed as outer communities to Preston. Local people from these areas work, study and enjoy Preston City Centre on a daily basis.

- 3.13 Describe any exceptional circumstances which would justify an increase that would be reasonably considered “significant” (if appropriate):

A community or a local radio service is a very big part of any community. South Ribble and Chorley do not have any of the above, especially any type of service that provides the same characteristics of service, social gains and key commitments that we deliver to the local community. Both areas are widely classed as outer communities to the city and close enough to serve.

We believe as a minimum, both areas are underserved and should be able to access a local community radio service.

Technical change request form

3.14 Explain how you will provide a community radio service for the target community in the extended area:

We will extend our community program to target these areas. Including delivering a more local service covering the target communities. Engaging with groups and events to provide coverage and training opportunities. We will continue to work with local organisations, community groups and charities in these areas and create a closer link with the communities. Our training academy will open up to a wider area to allow free radio and media training.

3.15 Provide any other reasons for the request that you would like us to consider (if applicable):

We understand that Leyland has a community radio service. Our service provides a very different character of service, social gains and key commitment structure.

3.16 Provide a list of the annexes (maps and any other evidence). Your application may be unsuccessful if you do not provide all the information requested. You can expand the table if necessary:

Annex number	Name	Short description

4. Modification to an existing transmission site(s)

About this section

Please complete this section if you are requesting to modify the transmission parameters (e.g. a power increase, a change to aerial pattern) at an existing transmission site.

4.1 Site name (use the same name you have provided in Part 2):

Preston – Sandown Court

4.2 What change are you looking to make to the transmission parameters?

I want to increase the transmission power (Ofcom will determine the transmission power that you need to improve or extend the coverages in the areas you have described in sections 3a or 3b of this application form) – **Yes**

I want to change the aerial height – **No**

I want to change the aerial pattern – **No**

4.3 Explain the requested change to the transmission parameters:

Increased transmission power – this will help the patchy areas we currently serve and allow extension to broadcast into South Ribble and Chorley.

4.4 If you are requesting permission to modify more than one existing transmission site, please let us know and complete one set of details for each site in Annex 1.

I want to request permission to modify more than one existing transmission site and I have completed the details of additional existing site(s) in Annex 1, Part B.

No