

Community Digital Sound Programme (C-DSP) licence

Application form – Part A (public)

Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Crescent Community Radio Ltd

Proposed service name:

Crescent Radio

Radio multiplex service(s) on which the proposed C-DSP service is to be provided (note this must be a small-scale multiplex area either previously advertised or currently being advertised by Ofcom as shown in the multiplex licence advertisement)

Bolton and Bury DAB Radio

Public contact details (i.e. Contact name and/or company name, company address, telephone number(s) and email):

Crescent Community Radio, 1 Devon St, Rochdale OL11 1HN. Tel 07456 340786
info@crescentradio.net

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1. Overview

You should complete this form if you are applying for a community digital sound programme licence (“C-DSP”). You can find further information about C-DSP services in the [guidance notes for licensees and applicants](#).

This application form is divided into two parts – **Part A** (which we will publish on our website) and **Part B** (which will be kept confidential). This document constitutes Part A; [Part B of the application form](#) is available on our website.

If you encounter any issues using these forms, please contact broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk.

The purpose of this form

You should complete this form if you are applying for a Community Digital Sound Programme (C-DSP) licence.

A digital sound programme service intended for broadcast by means of a local or small-scale radio multiplex service requires either a C-DSP licence or a local DSP licence. Ofcom’s published guidance notes set out some of the key issues that potential applicants need to consider in deciding which type of licence is suitable for them. In summary, C-DSP services are not run for financial gain and are required to provide social gain. C-DSP licences therefore include strict conditions to ensure that happens, and provide less flexibility than a local DSP licence. However, they do provide access to capacity that small-scale radio multiplex service providers are required to reserve solely for C-DSP services.

A C-DSP licence will be required even if the same programme service is also provided on any other platforms (e.g. FM, satellite), as separate licences are required for those.

As noted above, small-scale radio multiplex services will have reserved capacity for C-DSP services. Issue of a C-DSP licence does not, however, guarantee carriage on a small-scale (or local) radio multiplex service. That is a matter for agreement between the C-DSP licensee and the multiplex service provider, and there may be more C-DSP licences issued in a locality than there are reserved slots on the small-scale radio multiplex service. Note that a C-DSP service does not necessarily have to broadcast using reserved capacity. It can use unreserved capacity on a small-scale radio multiplex service or capacity on a local radio multiplex service, again subject to agreement with the multiplex service provider.

An application for a C-DSP licence will be accepted only once Ofcom has advertised the licence for the small-scale radio multiplex service upon which the proposed C-DSP service is intended to be provided. There is no closing-date by which an application for a C-DSP licence must be submitted (i.e. it can be submitted at any time after the licence for the relevant small-scale radio multiplex licence has been advertised).

You can find further information about how to determine if a service requires a C-DSP licence in Section 2 of the [guidance notes for applicants and licensees](#).

Provision of information

Ofcom requires complete and accurate information to assess applications. This is so that we can assess your application against statutory criteria, consider whether those involved in the body applying for a licence are 'fit and proper' to hold a licence, and determine whether their involvement with other organisations disqualifies them from participation in a licence.

It is an offence under the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended) to provide false information or withhold relevant information during the application process, and may be grounds for revocation of a licence subsequently granted.

Publication of information about applications and licensed services

Information provided in **Part A** of the application form will typically be published by Ofcom in our Monthly Radio Update publication the month following the submission of your application. This may take longer if the application is received late in the month. Information provided in **Part B** will not be published.

In submitting this application you agree that, should a licence be granted, Ofcom may publish contact details for the licensee (specified in Section 2 of Part B of the application form), which may include personal data, on the Ofcom website and/or in other relevant publications. If you have any questions about the information that we publish, or there are any changes to this information, you should contact the Broadcast Licensing team by email (broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk).

Ofcom considers issued C-DSP licences to be public documents and copies of licences will be made available to third parties on request albeit, other than the Key Commitments which are tailored to the service, C-DSP licences are standard form documents. A brief description of the licensed service will be published on the Ofcom website, along with the Key Commitments which form part of the licence.

Ofcom publishes a [monthly radio licensing update](#) which lists new services licensed, new applications, licences revoked, licence transfers, and changes to licensed services during the past month.

Data protection

We require the information requested in this form in order to carry out our licensing duties under the Broadcasting Act 1990, Broadcasting Act 1996 and Communications Act 2003. Please see Ofcom's [General Privacy Statement](#) for further information about how Ofcom handles your personal information and your corresponding rights.

Keeping up to date with broadcasting matters

We strongly recommend that the appropriate person at the applicant body signs up to receive Ofcom's regular email updates on broadcasting matters including notification when the Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin is published.

To sign up to receive these communications, you must visit the [email updates](#) area of our website and select 'Broadcasting.'

2. Applicant's details

About this section

In this section we are asking you for details about the applicant company. This must be a body corporate which is not profit distributing.

In the first part of this section, we are asking for basic details about the applicant. These include company registration number and contact information.

In the second part of this section we are asking for details of the applicant's officers (directors or, in the case of LLPs, designated members), its shareholders and participants. Where applicable, we are also asking for details of the officers of the applicant's parent and associated companies or LLPs etc.

If any of the individuals named in your responses are known by more than one name/version of their name, all names must be provided.

Certain persons are disqualified from holding a C-DSP licence. This section asks the questions which enable us to consider this for those types of disqualification which apply specifically to bodies corporate. It also asks questions which are relevant to our assessment of the applicant's fitness and propriety to hold a C-DSP licence.

Before completing this section of the form, you should read [Ofcom's guidance on the definition of 'control' of media companies](#). Throughout this section, "control" has the meaning it is given in Part I of Schedule 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1990.

The response boxes and tables should be expanded or repeated where necessary, or provided in a separate annex.

'Officerships' in this section refers to: directorships of bodies corporate, designated memberships of LLPs, or membership of a governing body of an unincorporated association (including partnerships).

Applicant information and contact details

2.1 Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Crescent Community Radio Ltd

2.2 Company registration number stated on Companies House:

1126088

2.3 For UK registered companies, the address of the applicant's registered office stated on Companies House.

For non-UK registered companies, the principal office address:

2.4 If a UK registered company, is the current Memorandum and Articles of Association document available on the Companies House website?

Yes No

If no, please submit the up to date document and indicate you have done so in the checklist in Section 4 of Part B.

2.5 Contact details of the individual duly authorised by the applicant for the purposes of making this application. This individual should be the company secretary, a director or (if an LLP) designated member.

(If you are an agent completing the form on behalf of the applicant please do not enter your details here – see paragraph 2.25 of the [guidance notes](#)).

Full name	Mohammed Ijaz Ul-haq Faheem Chishti	
Job title	Director	
Address	Crescent Community Radio 1 Devon St, Rochdale OL11 1HN	
Telephone	07884 053544	
Mobile	07884 053544	
Email	faheem@crescentradio.net	

2.6 If the proposed Licensed Service has/will have a website, please provide the website address below.

www.crescentradio.net

2.7 How will the service be financed? If the applicant is receiving, or is likely to receive, any form of funding and/or financial assistance to establish and maintain the service, please provide details of who is providing that funding/financial assistance and the extent of it.

If you are receiving funding from, or on behalf of, a source that could be considered a political organisation or a religious body, you must set out the nature of that organisation here.

Volunteer support, community events and local business sponsorships.

Ownership and control of the company which will hold the licence

Details of officers, participants and shareholders of the applicant

2.8 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to provide the following details for each director or designated member of the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Full name of individual	Correspondence address ¹	Country of residence	Other officerships held (and nature of the business concerned)	Other employment
Mohammed Ijaz ul-haq Faheem Chishti	Crescent Radio 1 Devon St Rochdale OL11 1HN	UK	Education Crescent Ltd Education consultancy and nursery business. Crescent Media Ltd Community Radio network for dissemination of public service messaging The Oral History Society Charity Trustee	Nursery Owner
Razia Shamim MBE	Crescent Radio 1 Devon St Rochdale OL11 1HN	UK	Medical Aid UK Charity Trustee	Retired Community worker
Dr Inayat Khan Babar	Crescent Radio 1 Devon St Rochdale OL11 1HN	UK	None	Retired GP

2.9 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, amounting to more than 5% in the applicant (“participants”). If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this

¹ This should be the same address as is held and published by Companies House.

question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

Full name of >5% participant (existing and pro-posed)	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
No beneficial owners				
Comments				

2.10 Complete the following table, expanding if necessary, to identify any entities with which the applicant is affiliated. By affiliated, we mean companies that are related through ownership, either with one company being a minority shareholder in the other, or through multiple companies being owned by a third party.

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of the entity	Address
N/A	

2.11 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list any bodies corporate which are controlled by the applicant, and their affiliates:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of the entity	Address	Affiliates
East Manchester DAB Ltd (minority shareholder)	Sarah Moor Studios Henshaw Street Oldham OL1 3EN	Oldham FM Ltd Infocus Digital Media Ltd Crescent Community Radio Ltd Oldham Community Broadcasting Ltd

Details of persons who control the applicant

2.12 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all persons who control the applicant, together with their affiliates. If any persons or bodies control the applicant jointly because they act together in concert (e.g. because of a shareholder’s agreement), each such person must be identified here:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of individual or body	Address	Affiliates
Mohammed Ijaz Ul-haq Faheem Chishti	Crescent Community Radio	

	1 Devon St. Rochdale OL11 1HN	
Razia Shamim MBE	Crescent Community Radio 1 Devon St. Rochdale OL11 1HN	
Dr. Inayat Khan Babar	Crescent Community Radio 1 Devon St. Rochdale OL11 1HN	

2.13 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all officerships in other bodies that are held by any individual listed in response to question 2.12, and any affiliates of those bodies. An “officership” refers to being a director of a body corporate, designated member of a limited liability partnership, or member of the governing body of an unincorporated association:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table)

Full name of individual	Name of body in which officership held	Affiliates of that body
N/A		

2.14 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies corporate which are controlled by any body corporate listed in response to question 2.12, and their affiliates:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond "N/A" in the table)

Full name of body corporate listed in 2.11	Body corporate controlled	Affiliates of body corporate controlled
N/A		

2.15 In relation to each body corporate identified in response to question 2.12, complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, amounting to more than 5% in the body corporate concerned (i.e. "participants"). You may, but are not required to, exclude from this table any bodies listed in response to question 2.12. If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond "N/A" in the table)

Name of body corporate identified in response to question 2.11				
Full name of >5% participant	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
Crescent Community Radio Lt is non-share based. Limited by guarantee.				
Comments				

Involvement of the applicant in specified activities

2.16 Please state below whether the applicant, or any of the directors, shareholders or other individuals named above, including their associates (i.e. directors of their associates and other group companies), is, or is involved in, any of the below, and the extent of that interest.

Activity/involvement	Yes / No	Please state who is involved; the name of the body/individual/agency they are involved with; and the extent of their involvement
a) A local authority		Small service level agreement for programme sponsorship by the L.A.
b) A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature, or which is affiliated to such a body		
c) A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a religious nature; ²		
d) An individual who is an officer of a body falling within (b) or (c);		
e) A body corporate which is an associate (as defined in paragraphs 1(1) and 1(1A) of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) of a body falling within (b) or (c);		
f) An advertising agency or an associate of an advertising agency		

² Please refer to Sections 3 to 5 of [Ofcom's religious guidance note](#) for details on how we determine the eligibility of religious bodies to hold certain broadcasting licences.

Details of applications, licences and sanctions

2.17 Is the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence) a current licensee of Ofcom?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the licence details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of multiplex
CDP105171BA/1	East Manchester DAB

2.18 Has the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence) held an Ofcom broadcasting licence before?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
CR000026	Crescent Community Radio
Multiple RSLs	Crescent Radio. May 2001 – June 2006

2.19 Has anyone involved in the proposed service held an Ofcom broadcasting licence or been involved in an Ofcom-licensed broadcast service before?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the details expanding the table if necessary:

Dates licence was held or dates of involvement	Licence number (if known)	Name of service or multiplex
See above		

2.20 Does the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence) control an existing Ofcom licensee?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the licence details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
CR000026	Crescent Community Radio FM Community Radio Licence.

2.21 Is the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence) controlled by an existing licensee or by any person who is connected (within the meaning of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) with an existing licensee (i.e. as a “participant”)?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the following information, expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex

2.22 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant - made any other application to Ofcom (or its predecessor broadcast regulators – the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority) for any licence which has since been surrendered by the licensee or revoked by Ofcom (or one of its predecessor regulators)?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the following information, expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex

2.23 Is the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant - subject to any current or pending investigation by any statutory regulatory or government body in the United Kingdom or abroad in respect of any broadcast-related matter?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the following details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number (or equivalent)	Name of service or multiplex	Details of the investigation

2.24 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been subject to a statutory sanction for contravening a condition of a broadcasting licence in the UK or any other jurisdiction?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the following details relating to each sanction expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number (or equivalent)	Name of service or multiplex	Nature of the breach	Sanction imposed	Date sanction imposed

2.25 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been convicted of an unlicensed broadcasting offence?

Yes No

If yes, please provide the following details:

Full name	Date of conviction/action (dd/mm/yy)	Penalty

2.26 Please provide any further information you hold, relating to the past conduct of the applicant or those individuals listed, in regulatory matters or in matters going to honesty and/or compliance, which may be relevant to Ofcom's consideration of whether or not the applicant is fit and proper to hold a broadcast licence. If the applicant or the form signatory fails without reasonable excuse at this point to declare any matter of which Ofcom subsequently becomes aware, and which we do consider to be relevant to the applicant's eligibility to hold a licence, we will take it into account in determining the question of whether the applicant/licensee remains fit and proper to hold a licence.

If you have no information to provide, please respond "N/A".

N/A

3. The proposed service

About this section

This section asks you to describe your proposed service, including the Key Commitments you propose to include in your licence. This includes your service name, multiplex name and character of service, in addition to standard commitments that all C-DSP licensees need to abide by. Holders of an existing analogue community radio licence to be a simul-cast on the proposed C-DSP service can replicate the existing analogue key commitments as it is our expectation that the key commitments for simulcast services are to be in keeping with one another. If a licence is granted, the information you provide in this section will be used to form the basis of the annex to your licence. You will only be authorised to broadcast what is detailed in the annex of the licence.

In this section, you will also need to set out how your service will provide social gain, community participation and how you will be accountable to the target community. This is in line with statutory requirements for the granting of C-DSP licences. **The information provided in this section is also the basis on which decisions are made.**

If you hold, or intend to hold, multiple C-DSP licences, the answers given in this section and the intended delivery of your Key Commitments must apply to the locality in which your proposed service will broadcast (as set out in the Draft Key Commitments in this application form).

Your proposed service and target community

3.1 What is the proposed service name?

Crescent Radio

3.2 On which radio multiplex service do you intend to broadcast? If the relevant radio multiplex licence has not yet been awarded, please state the name of the area that the multiplex service is intended to cover, as defined in the multiplex licence advertisement.

Bolton & Bury DAB Radio

3.3 Where is your proposed studio located? Please note that this must be located within the coverage area of the small-scale radio multiplex service identified in answer to 3.2 (or the advertised area for a small-scale radio multiplex service that has not yet been awarded).³

The Balmayna, Bolton.
Washington St,
Bolton BL3 5EY

³ If you propose to provide your service on a local, rather than a small-scale, radio multiplex service, there is no requirement for your studio to be located within the licensed area of that local radio multiplex service.

- 3.4 If the proposed service is a simulcast or corresponding service of an existing licensed radio service, please list that below and provide the licence number.

CR000026

- 3.5 What is the target community of the service? Please include the geographical area that you wish to serve in addition to the interests or characteristics that define your target community. The area you wish to serve must be geographically located within the cover-age area of the radio multiplex service on which you intend to broadcast. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Crescent Radio’s current target community is the Asian Muslim population of Rochdale and surrounding areas. We also provide programming for other emerging communities, including African and Hispanic audiences, through dedicated shows that reflect their cultures and experiences.

Our output is multilingual—approximately 40% in English and 60% in other community languages such as Urdu, Bengali, Yoruba and even some Spanish.

We particularly focus on people who may be at greater risk due to language barriers, economic hardship or social vulnerability. Across our listener base, we attract a mix of ages and genders, though we currently see stronger engagement from female listeners and older adults.

Looking ahead, we aim to extend our service to reach communities in Bury and Bolton as well, building on the same inclusive approach. Our core market of Asian Muslim listeners in the Bolton and Bury areas are extensive and currently are not represented on their local multiplex.

- 3.6 How will you ensure that your proposed C-DSP service is run on a not-for-profit basis? Please give details of specific measures or arrangements in place to ensure this, and how any profit will be wholly and exclusively used for securing or improving the future provision of the service, or for the delivery of social gain. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Crescent Community Radio Ltd is a limited company by guarantee, as well as a Registered Charity with the Charities Commission – No: 05263352. As a charity, we have a board of Trustees and a management committee which oversees the charitable work we do with our volunteers and the general public. This oversight includes quarterly full board meetings as well as bi-monthly sub-committee meetings of Resources, Community and Programming sub groups.

Our Resources group in particular scrutinizes the finances with due diligence to ensure all restricted funding is accounted for accurately, and all unrestricted funds are spent according to our policies and aims. We have an annual Strategic Action Plan which serves as a guide across the year as well as more detailed Action Plans for the different areas of work we deliver at the station.

Our Ofcom scrutiny as a Community Licence holder includes Annual Reporting to ensure we remain not-for-profit with tight controls on the level of advertising as a proportion to the rest of our income.

Social gain

- 3.7 What community benefits will your service bring to your target community(ies) and, if applicable, the general public. Please include summaries of evidence to support your answer, including details about other organisations you intend to work with. **Answer in fewer than 500 words.** Please do not provide names of individuals in your answer.

Our service will bring the following Social Gain community benefits:-

1. Advance the education and training of the inhabitants of Oldham, Rochdale and the surrounding areas in radio production, broadcasting and media skills techniques;

We have work with on average 50 volunteers per year who often have never come across audio broadcast or recording equipment before. More recently we are using social media and podcasting as a way of reaching people. These work related as well as social skills are enhancing the lives of our volunteers, project recipients and listeners.

2. Advance the education of the public through radio broadcasts on such topics as the trustees deem fit, in particular but not exclusively relating to health and crime prevention;

Our partnership with our local NHS providers and our Local Authority, mean that we can get key messages across to the general public, in a medium they know and trust, and of-ten in a language and style of language they can understand. Our Safer Communities project was able to reach 10 different community groups who were able then to reach and train their members on how to avoid being scammed by local operators and online. As a DAB broadcaster, we would like to extend our work with all three public bodies ie Police, NHS and Local Authorities.

3. Provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

We are particular proud of this Social Gain objective, particularly in the area around identity and heritage. Through our recently projects (kindly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund), we have managed to interview and preserve the Oral Histories of 80 individuals from the Greater Manchester area – Kashmir Lives, East African Lives, Musical Lives and most recently, Punjabi Lives – all tell the stories of migration, reminiscence and memories of lives from a different time. The theme through all these stories is how much alike we all are compared to our differences. Other recent social welfare projects include Digital Inclusion –helping those over 50 access the digital world through i-pads, Eid Festivals involving culture and music performances, Poetry Days delivering self-written poems by our male volunteers.. and much much more..

- 3.8 Please summarise how your service will facilitate discussion and the expression of opinion. **Answer in fewer than 200 words.**

Crescent Radio facilitates discussion and the expression of opinion through a range of open and accessible channels. Our governance structure includes direct community representation, with two community members serving on our board to ensure local voices shape our decision-making.

Most of our programming is designed to encourage listener interaction, with live call-ins and opportunities to leave messages that presenters address on air. Dedicated debate and discussion shows provide space for differing viewpoints, which are managed respectfully to promote healthy and constructive dialogue.

We also hold an Annual General Meeting where members of the public are invited to share their views directly with staff and board members.

Our religious programming reflects a wide spectrum of beliefs, including both Sunni and Shia perspectives, fostering an environment of mutual respect and allowing listeners to hear and express diverse opinions within the community.

- 3.9 How will you ensure that members of your target community(ies) can gain access to the facilities used to provide your service, and receive training in using these? In particular, please set out how this will be done practically, formally and/or informally. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Members of our target communities across the region can access our facilities online, in person and through our events and projects.

- Online – we have an active web presence through our website, social media and our ever increasing Community Whatsapp group. These will provide listeners with lots of opportunities to interact with our volunteers, our staff and each other. At least 2 shows per day are now broadcast on FacebookLive. Our whatsapp group sends out broadcasts at least 3 times daily informing the public of free local services and events that could be of benefit to them.

- In Person – Our studios are located 2min away from the Tram stop and Train station, which will allow access to volunteers from across the broadcast area. We regularly run training sessions for new volunteers and presenter, which are advertised on-air and on-line.

- Projects and events. We also have an active Community Programme included regular social and project events, where members of the public are invited to, where they can not only participate in the project, but also meet members of our staff/volunteers.

3.10 How will your service provide better understanding of your target community and the strengthening of links within it? **Answer in fewer than 200 words.**

Crescent Radio has a long history of serving the diverse communities of Rochdale, providing programming and messages that reflect their experiences and interests. Accessing DAB will allow us to reach similar audiences in new geographical areas, specifically Bury and Bolton, creating stronger connections across North and East of Greater Manchester, from Tameside to Bolton. This will 'join up' our listeners in neighbouring local authorities.

By extending our service, we will strengthen links within and between communities, offering a platform for shared cultural experiences, dialogue, and mutual understanding. Our multilingual programming and community-focused shows ensure that the voices of underrepresented groups are heard, while also promoting awareness of local issues, traditions, and initiatives.

Currently, these communities in Bury and Bolton do not have access to a service tailored to their specific needs. Crescent Radio will fill this gap, fostering engagement, participation, and a sense of belonging. Through live discussions, cultural content, and collaborative initiatives, our service will enhance understanding within the target communities and encourage stronger, more connected networks across the region.

3.11 Please summarise the relevant experience of the group or its members in activities related to the provision of social gain or other relevant non-broadcast areas (such as third sector, training or education). **Answer in fewer than 200 words.**

Although Crescent Radio is a radio station, we always emphasise to stakeholders and partners, including Ofcom, that we are first and foremost a community project, delivering services that benefit our local population. This focus has led to a wide range of activities beyond broadcasting, demonstrating our commitment to social gain.

Our work includes preserving oral histories, recording the experiences of different migrant communities in the borough to ensure their stories are documented and

accessible. We promote digital inclusion by developing IT skills among older residents, helping to reduce social isolation and improve access to essential services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we established one of the first local helplines, supporting food deliveries and wellbeing for vulnerable community members.

We also run innovative cultural and educational projects, such as the Bangladeshi Musical Project, which compared the songs of cotton mill workers in Bangladesh with those of Lancashire, delivering workshops in local primary schools.

Through these initiatives, our team demonstrates extensive experience in social, educational, and cultural projects, showing that Crescent Radio is deeply embedded in the community and committed to delivering meaningful social impact beyond the airwaves.

Participation

3.12 How do you propose to ensure that members of your target community(ies) are given opportunities to participate in the operation and management of the service? **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

- Community Voices. All our volunteers and presenters are members of the local community, and many of them are leaders of grassroots groups within their own communities. Some are members of multiple community groups. For example, Rah-zero Community Support, Bangladeshi Community Association, Pakistan Welfare Association, Hispanic Together – altogether, our volunteers and presenters represent around 15 different community groups.

- Business Voices. Some of our volunteers own/run their own businesses in the community and therefore offer this experience for example, Solicitors, Venue Hire, Laundrette, Travel Services.

- Management Committee Representation. We have a rotating policy of 2 member each at least from our volunteers, from local businesses and from local community leaders.

- Listener voice – our Programming sub-group has listeners as part of their group to give a listeners’ point of view to our output.

Accountability

3.13 How will members of your target community contact your service and influence its operation? **Answer in fewer than 300 words.**

1. By personal contact through the various channels as outlined above in 3.12. Invariably, if a member of the target community wants to influence our operation, they will usually know someone from our volunteers, board or through their local grassroots organisation

2. Our Community Whatsapp Group. (Admin only posts). Our administrators on this group can receive private messages from any group member. This has been quite a useful and immediate form of response.

3. Feedback – through our advertised studio contact number, email and facebook. All details are available on our website.

4. Projects, activities and marketing participation. We publish monthly timetables, have regular activities and projects. Contact through any of these means will enable our target community to contact and influence our station.

5. Via our Community Representative management committee. All our committee members are active members and indeed, leaders of their local groups in their own right, and so invariably, someone from somewhere will know of a senior member of our management committee.

3.14 How will suggestions and/or criticisms from members of your target community(ies) be considered and acted upon? **Answer in fewer than 300 words.**

- Evaluations. All our activities and projects have follow up evaluations through team meetings and often through formal evaluations. We follow up each enquiry and make a judgement of how to proceed or take further actions. One recent example was when one of our overnight listeners commented on the overnight playlist suggesting that we repeat some that day's daytime programming there instead. We acted upon this within 2 weeks and set up an automated repeat schedule to address this concern.

- Management and Sub-group meetings. All recent suggestions and concerns by our target community or indeed, our members, are discussed regularly in these termly and quarterly meetings.

- Staff Meetings – weekly staff meetings constantly raise suggestions and improvements which are acted upon in a timely manner, added to our group Action Plan as a result.

Draft Key Commitments

Below is an example of the licence annex where the Key Commitments appear. Should a licence be awarded, the entries you provide below will form the Key Commitments section of your licence. Holders of a community radio analogue licence that is to be simulcast, or a corresponding service, are expected to provide key commitments that are in line with their existing service(s). As such, applicants may refer to the existing key commitments of the relevant simulcast or corresponding service(s) to ensure that the draft below is in line with those of the existing service(s).

Please provide entries where specified in **BOLD** below. The information you enter here should reflect your answers to Sections 3 and 4 of the Part A of your completed Application Form. This will form the basis of your Key Commitments alongside the mandatory text in italics. Do not amend the text in italics as every service is required to comply with these requirements, but the details of how each service does so do not need to be included in the Key Commitments.

ANNEX TO LICENCE

LICENSED SERVICE NO

Licensed Service	Crescent Radio
Crescent Radio	<p>Crescent Radio is a radio service intended to serve Rochdale, Oldham and surrounding areas.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION OF OUR TARGET AUDIENCE: Crescent Community Radio provides a local community service predominantly, but not exclusively, for the Asian Muslim communities of Rochdale, Oldham and surrounding areas.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION OF OUR LOCALITY : Crescent Community Radio aims to serve the localities of Rochdale, Oldham and surrounding areas.</p> <p>MAIN PURPOSE OF THE RADIO SERVICE, ITS FUNCTIONS/ACTIVITIES</p> <p><i>The studio of the Licensed Service is located within the coverage area of the Small-Scale Radio Multiplex Service identified above (n.b. the Licensee will not be in breach of this requirement if an existing studio ceases to fall within the coverage area merely as a result of technical changes to the Small-Scale Radio Multiplex Service outside the control of the Licensee).</i></p> <p><i>The Licensed Service shall have the characteristics of a Community Digital Sound Programme Service as set out in the 2019 Order and, in so doing, shall achieve the following objectives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion,</i> • <i>the provision (whether by means of programmes included in the service or otherwise) of education or training to individuals not employed by the person providing the service, and</i> • <i>the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of links within it.</i>

Members of the target community shall contribute to the operation and management of the service.

The service shall have mechanisms in place to ensure it is accountable to its target community in the specific area or locality.

Our Programming and Social Gain commitments are as follows:

Our target audience

- Serve the Asian Muslim community with particular reference to the elderly, housebound, young people and women.
- Broadcast a service with speech-dominated output focusing on Rochdale, Oldham and the surrounding areas.
- Provide lively chat throughout the day giving listeners an opportunity to debate with presenters and listen to other points of view.
- Host cross-cultural awareness events
- Offer volunteers training in presenting and production skills.
- Enable discussions to cross the literacy barrier by passing on information in an easy to understand verbal manner.
- Output is broadcast in English, Urdu, Punjabi, Pahari, Pushto, Swahili, Bengali, Euroba, Arabic, Spanish, Pushto as well as other community languages as appropriate. The range of community languages featured may change over time.

Our Programming

- Provide original live output from 07:00 – 21:00, with an aim of 6hrs minimum live broadcasts daily.
- Around 30% of output will be in English during the course of the week, with around 70% made up of local community languages.
- The service is largely speech-based, offering a variety of Muslim lifestyle programming in a general light entertainment, social and interactive fun way. Around 60% speech to 40% music.

The music output is generally Asian-based and generally acoustic. Crescent Radio music is characteristically uplifting and humanitarian

Transmission Schedule

Daily Live broadcast from 9am – 9pm

Multiplex

Bolton and Bury DAB Radio

4. Compliance of the service

About this section

This section asks you to describe the compliance arrangements for the proposed licensed service, i.e. the arrangements which the applicant will put in place to ensure that the content it proposes to broadcast will comply with the relevant regulatory codes and rules for programming and advertising. These include:

- The Ofcom Broadcasting Code
- The BCAP Code: the UK Code of Broadcast Advertising
- The Regulation of Premium Rate Services Order

Condition 17 of a C-DSP licence requires that you have compliance procedures in place, and this section asks that you demonstrate your ability to meet this licence condition.

Before completing this section of the form you should read Section 4 of the [C-DSP guidance notes](#), where you will also find links to the codes and rules listed above.

- 4.1 Please give details of all compliance training (including dates) the person named in response to either question 2.3 or 2.5 in Part B (i.e. the individual who holds overall responsibility for compliance of the service) has received in the relevant codes and rules (for example, those referred to in the box at the start of this section).

Faheem Chishti – Licence holder of multiple RSL licenses since June 2001 and Communi-ty Licence holder since November 2006.

- 4.2 Please give details of any practical compliance experience (including dates) the person named in response to either question 2.3 or 2.5 in Part B (i.e the individual who holds overall responsibility for compliance of the service) has with respect to the relevant codes and rules.

Faheem Chishti and his team of staff including trainers, have been training volunteers and staff in regards to the broadcast code for over 25 years. In the past, we have been offering this as part of an accredited course through WEA (www.wea.org.uk).

As an experienced broadcaster, we have offered consultancy support to other community stations with regards, technical support, management support, sales support and advice on Ofcom compliance and complaints. Some stations we have supported in recent times have been Heritage Community Radio, Link FM, Dawn FM, Revive FM and Seerah Radio.

4.3 For each role within your compliance team please provide job title and a brief description of the functions of the role specific to ensuring compliance of the proposed service. Please do not give names of individual members of staff – this question relates to job roles rather than currently employed individuals.

Faheem Chishti – c/o Crescent Community Radio, ensures all compliance processes and procedures are adhered to by volunteers and staff. He is the contact for compliance issues or questions from members of the team or community. He is responsible for managing and keeping recordings of all live broadcasts as required by the code. Furthermore he will liaise with Ofcom with ref to any issues/complaints.

4.4 How does the applicant intend to formally train staff in compliance procedures? Please include details of the compliance training that will be given to those responsible for live programming, including compliance staff, presenters and producers.

The applicant will formally train staff in compliance procedures via the following

- Induction processes including shadowing of co-workers/volunteers.
- Formal training, either individually or in small groups.
- Careful monitoring by programming manager through the probationary period
- volunteer handbook and staff guides.
- signed volunteer/staff agreement for all in place.

4.5 Will the training described in response to question 4.5 be mandatory for all staff and volunteers? If not, outline who will receive it.

Mandatory for all staff and volunteers.

4.6 It is a licence requirement that a licensee must ensure that all programming on its service (broadcast at any time of the day or night) complies with Ofcom's codes and rules (e.g. Ofcom's Broadcasting Code, which sets requirements on standards to be observed in programme content for the protection of the public).

a) Set out in detail below the systems the applicant intends to have in place to ensure it will be able to comply with the codes and rules when the service is broadcasting live content. Your response should include details of what you will do to prepare presenters and guests pre-broadcast and the process for ensuring that any non-complaint content is dealt with swiftly during the broadcast.

Staffing Systems.

- Studio Producer. Has day-to-day oversight of daily output and presenter rota. He will monitor output and any issues or complaints on a day-to-day basis.
- Programming Manager – has overall responsibility of the quality of the output and issuing of programme slots to volunteers. She will also monitor output, but will be the first point of call for any issues that arise.
- Community Manager. Responsible for community representation at events, our daily community bulletin and all community projects that we deliver.
- Station Manager – will step in when there are more serious concerns to support the Programming manager and Studio manager. The station manager is in turn supported by the Resources sub committee who are made fully aware of any serious issues with volunteers or staff.
- Crucially, we also have two experienced back of house staff as Finance officer and Funding/Admin officer. Both these individuals ensure our financial and administrative responsibilities are completed to a very high standard.

Admin Systems.

- Induction
- Shadowing/buddying system
- Guides, agreements and training materials.

- b) Set out in detail below how the applicant intends to ensure that pre-recorded material will comply with Ofcom's codes and rules. Pre-recorded content could include, for example, material obtained from, or streamed from, third party sources as well as content produced by the licensee.

All pre-recorded materials are vetted by the Studio Producer in order to ensure that any pre-recorded content complies with Ofcom's codes and rules. Volunteers and present-ers are explicitly told not to play any speech content from any third party sources.

- 4.7 Please set out how you will ensure the ongoing delivery/compliance of the **on-air** character of service as set out in the Key Commitments. This should be focused on the content you will broadcast on the station.

In your answer, please ensure you include details on each of the following points:

- a) How you will monitor that the character of service is being delivered;
- b) who will be responsible for monitoring this;
- c) how often will they monitor it;
- d) how you ensure this information is published; and
- e) where the information will be published/made publicly available.

Crescent Radio ensures ongoing delivery of its on-air character of service through a structured compliance framework.

a) **Monitoring:** Compliance with our Key Commitments is monitored via multiple channels: annual reports to Ofcom, trustee and director oversight, quarterly full management meetings, and focused sub-groups covering Resources, Programming, and Community engagement.

b) **Responsibility:** Trustees and directors have overall responsibility for ensuring the Key Commitments are upheld. Day-to-day monitoring is carried out by station management, with sub-groups addressing specific areas such as programming content, resource allocation, and community initiatives.

c) **Frequency:** Key Commitments are reviewed quarterly during full management meetings. Sub-groups meet at least once every three months to focus on their specific areas. Annual reports to Ofcom provide a formal yearly review of compliance.

d) **Publishing Information:** Monitoring outcomes, including any reviews or updates on delivery of the Key Commitments, are documented in meeting minutes and included in our annual report.

e) **Public Availability:** Annual reports, along with key meeting summaries, are published on our website and are available to the public on request. This ensures transparency and accountability to both our audience and regulatory bodies.

Through these processes, Crescent Radio maintains consistent oversight and accountability, ensuring our broadcast content continues to reflect the station's stated character of service.

4.8 Please set out how you will ensure the ongoing delivery/compliance of the **off-air** social gain activities as set out in the Key Commitments.

In your answer, please ensure you include details on each of the following points:

- a) How you will monitor that off-air social gain activities are being delivered;
- b) who will be responsible for monitoring this;
- c) how often will they monitor it;
- d) how you ensure this information is published; and
- e) where the information will be published/made publicly available.

Crescent Radio ensures ongoing delivery of its off-air social gain activities through structured oversight and monitoring.

a) **Monitoring:** The Community Manager and the Community Sub-Group monitor all off-air activities, including projects, training, and outreach initiatives. Each project also produces specific evaluative reports for funders, ensuring impact and accountability are clearly assessed.

b) **Responsibility:** Overall responsibility lies with the trustees and directors, with the Community Manager and Community Sub-Group overseeing day-to-day monitoring and reporting.

c) **Frequency:** The Community Sub-Group meets at least quarterly to review activities and reports, which are then presented to the full committee. Project-specific evaluations are carried out as required by funders.

d) **Publishing Information:** Outcomes from monitoring and project evaluations are reported to the full committee and summarised for wider public review.

e) **Public Availability:** Key information is publicised via our Annual General Meeting, and summaries of community projects and their impact are included in our annual reports and available on request.

Currently, over 80% of our staff time is devoted to these community projects rather than broadcast delivery, highlighting Crescent Radio's strong focus on delivering social gain alongside our on-air service.

4.9 What language(s) does the applicant intend to broadcast in?

English – 20%
Urdu – 50%
Punjabi, Pahari, Kashmiri – 25%
Bangali, Euroba – 5%

- 4.10 For each language listed in response to question 4.9 please provide details of how many compliance team member(s) are fluent in each language and will be responsible for ensuring that content broadcast in that language complies with the Ofcom’s code and rules. **Please do not give names of individual members of staff.**

English – All 5
Urdu – All 5
Punjabi/Pahari/Kashmir – All 5
Bangla, Euroba - 1

Other than Bangla and Euroba, all our staff members are fluent in the above community languages. The African show is also bilingual moving in and out of English, so can be monitored fairly well.

Given that all presenters have gone through full training, probationary periods and have signed agreements, we have clear expectations of compliance from their shows. Furthermore, listeners to these shows are very quick to feed-back to our team if certain elements of their shows do not follow the ‘Crescent Radio model’. Finally, we also have regular 1:1s with all presenters where we listen to recent recordings and give feedback.

5. Declaration

About this section

This form must be submitted by the applicant named in response to question 2.2. An agent may not sign the form.

The person authorised to make the declaration on behalf of the applicant must print their name and must be one of the following :

- A director of the company or the company secretary where the applicant is a company.
- A designated member where the applicant is a Limited Liability Partnership.

The declaration must also be dated.

- 5.1 I hereby apply to Ofcom for the grant of a licence for the community digital sound programme service described above and declare that the information given in this application form is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.
- 5.2 I further declare and warrant:
- a) that I am not a disqualified person within the meaning of that expression as defined in Part II of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990, as amended, or as a result of a disqualification order under Section 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996;
 - b) that having made all reasonable enquiries neither the applicant nor any person controlling the applicant, as a result of the grant to me of the licence, breach any requirement of Schedule 14 to the Communications Act 2003 with regard to the accumulation of interests in broadcasting services or to the restrictions on cross-media interests; and
 - c) that the applicant is not disqualified by virtue of the provisions of section 143 (5) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to political objects and the provisions of section 144 (3) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to the provision of false information or through the withholding of information with the intention of misleading Ofcom; and
 - d) that no director or person concerned directly or indirectly in the management of the applicant is subject to a disqualification order as defined by section 145 (1) of the Broadcasting Act 1996.
- 5.3 I understand that Ofcom reserves the right to revoke the licence (if granted) if at any time any material statement made to Ofcom is found to be false and to have been by the applicant or any member or officer thereof knowing it to be false. I also understand that under sections 144 and 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996, the provision of false information could incur a criminal conviction and a disqualification from the holding of a Broadcasting Act licence. I further certify that, to the best of my knowledge, any matters which might influence Ofcom's judgement as to whether the directors and any other individuals and/or bodies corporate with substantial involvement in this application are fit and proper persons to participate in a radio licence, have been made known to Ofcom.

Full name (BLOCK CAPITALS) of the applicant or person authorised to make the application of behalf of the applicant:

MOHAMMED IJAZ UL-HAQ FAHEEM CHISHTI

Date of application:

2nd December 2025

I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant in my capacity as **(delete as appropriate)**:

Company secretary / company director / designated member (in the case of a Limited Liability Partnership)

You also need to complete the [confidential section \(Part B\) of the application form](#).