

Revocation of the Cumbernauld & Coatbridge small-scale radio multiplex licence award

Background

Under section 51(6) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as modified by the Small-scale Radio Multiplex and Community Digital Radio Order 2019), Ofcom may revoke the award of a small-scale radio multiplex licence where the licence itself has not yet been granted and Ofcom has reasonable grounds for believing that the person to whom the licence was awarded will not provide the service within 18 months of the date of the award.

Decision

Ofcom has taken the decision to revoke the licence award we made on 21 February 2025 to Tower DAB Limited ('Tower DAB') in relation to the Cumbernauld & Coatbridge small-scale radio multiplex service.

This is on the basis that the statutory conditions for revocation as set out above have been met. Firstly, the awarded licence has not yet been granted. Secondly, we have reasonable grounds to believe the service will not be provided within 18 months of award (i.e. by 21 August 2026), as Tower DAB has asked that the award to be withdrawn on the basis that it no longer intends to launch the multiplex.

Next steps

Tower DAB was the sole applicant for the Cumbernauld & Coatbridge locality when the area was advertised in April 2024. In explaining its reasons for not proceeding with the project, Tower DAB did not express any interest in re-applying for a licence for this area, should Ofcom decide to advertise or re-advertise any further small-scale radio multiplex licences in the future. In a [consultation](#) which closed in April this year, Ofcom stated that it is minded to undertake, where appropriate, further small-scale DAB multiplex licensing. The post-consultation Statement which, following the consultation responses received, will set out Ofcom's final policy on this issue is scheduled for publication in September.

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