

Note of the Forty-Second Meeting of the Ofcom Community Radio Fund Panel

Held on Thursday 25 July 2024 via Microsoft Teams

Chair's Introduction

1. The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting. The Chair welcomed Clare Mc-Nally-Luke to her first tenure as a Panel member in 2024-25.

Item 1: Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 February 2024

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 February 2024, previously circulated to the Panel, were **AGREED** as an accurate record.

Item 2: Matters arising

3. There were no matters arising other than those being dealt with under items of the Agenda.

Items 3 and 4: Grant reports and sector update

4. The Panel **HEARD** a verbal report on the community radio sector.
5. The Panel were **INFORMED** about the general day to day activities in the licensing team, including the progress of SSDAB licensing and volume of applications and awards.
6. The Panel also **HEARD** about the licensing team's various stakeholder roadshows across the UK, common themes arising from those meetings and the outcome of a visit to a community radio service in South London attended by the Chief Executive and newly appointed Director of the Broadcasting and Media Group.
7. The Panel were **INFORMED** of the progress and timeline of the DCMS statement and new legislation on community radio funding restrictions and tenure extensions.

Item 5: Community Radio Fund applications

8. The Panel **NOTED** that 80 applications had been submitted, requesting grants totalling £1,542,694.29.
9. The Panel gave full and careful consideration to each application and awarded grants which amounted to a total of £205,479 to 11 applicants. A total of 70 applications from those under consideration were not awarded grants.

Item 6: Summary of Decisions

10. It was **AGREED** that a statement would be drafted and signed off by the Chair on behalf of the Panel. This would then be published on Ofcom's website. It should include information on the grants, as well as issues of note, which were discussed and agreed by the Panel.

Item 6: Any Other Business

11. There was no other business to discuss

Item 7: Date of Next Meeting

12. It was **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held at the start of 2025 to award funding in the second round of 2024-25. It was further **AGREED** that a date for the meeting would be set by email nearer the time.
13. There being no further business the meeting closed.

