



Angel Radio



98.6 FM in Portsmouth, Fareham & Havant .. Online at angelradio.co.uk
On DAB in West Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight

Angel Radio Ltd
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Havant
PO9 1PY

13th June 2024

Angel Radio Ltd Response to *Community Radio: future approach to Key Commitments Consultation*

Dear Ofcom,

Angel Radio welcomes the opportunity to respond to Ofcom's consultation on the future of community radio. Angel Radio initially broadcast as a series of RSLs from 1999 and is the oldest Ofcom licenced community radio station, having been a part of the Radio Authority's Access Radio pilot project in 2002 and having had continual licenced broadcasts since, initially on FM to the Havant area, but today on FM to Havant and the Portsmouth area, in addition to DAB digital radio in the Solent area since 2010.

Angel Radio is supportive of Ofcom's proposed changes.

Angel Radio would describe itself as a broadcaster to a 'community of interest', namely older people, with programmes that aim to entertain and educate. Initially with a strict policy of not playing music from beyond 1960, today this has evolved to not playing music from beyond 1969. We are supportive of Ofcom's proposal to remove specific music genre requirements.

Although Angel Radio does not have any plans to change its own music policy, removing specific genre requirements would provide us with some flexibility to evolve its programming to reflect the requirements of our audience. Angel Radio will always be a community radio service for older people at its core. The genre of music does not define Angel Radio, we are defined by the programmes we produce which are of appeal to our audience of older people. The removal of specific music genre requirements will bring community radio in line with commercial radio music regulation.

Angel Radio is supportive of Ofcom's proposal to remove specific speech content requirements. We believe that community radio at its core will still be judged by its impact on the community. By virtue of our licence, Angel Radio and other community stations will have to continue to provide speech of interest to its intended audience. This proposal from Ofcom to simplify regulation will bring community radio in line with commercial radio speech requirements.

Angel Radio and other community radio stations will ultimately be judged by the impact on the community served. For the most part, Angel Radio exceeds its key commitments on a daily basis. Ofcom's proposed changes to community radio licencing will not result in Angel Radio doing less. We will still be true to our commitment to inform and educate older people. However, we will be able to do this with added flexibility to support us to deal with unforeseen logistical challenges.

We expect that there may be some push back from the commercial sector and possibly others concerning Ofcom's proposed changes. Angel Radio asserts that ultimately, the Character of Service for each community radio licence will preserve the integrity of community radio. Community radio stations like ours will still be judged on the quality of the output, just without arbitrary quotas in relation to music and speech.