

Your response

Question	Your response
<p>Do you have any comments on our proposals?</p>	<p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>The plan makes only brief reference to Ofcom’s ongoing role in regulating local and community radio (on pages 18 and 19), and does not set out any clear policy on what types of licence it will issue during the period.</p> <p>Ofcom’s de facto position currently appears to be that it will not issue any new FM licences for community radio, but that it is also not in a position to issue licences for Small Scale DAB equitably across the country. This effectively puts the community radio sector in stasis, with stations unable to obtain any new broadcasting licences. This is a straightforward failure to serve one of the sectors Ofcom is supposed to cater for, and if continued will cost many communities much-needed opportunities for greater cohesion and activity as they recover from the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>The brief statements in the plan (“We will continue to issue, manage and maintain licences for all national and local commercial TV, and radio services,” and, “We are also planning work to deliver more small-scale DAB, analogue community and commercial radio coverage improvements [and] new restricted service licences[...]” imply that Ofcom will resume issuing licences suitable for community stations during this period. It must make good on this, and commit to providing processes for allowing community stations across the country to apply for either FM or SSDAB licences in 2021/2 – ideally both.</p>

Please complete this form in full and return to planofwork@ofcom.org.uk.