



Dear Ofcom,

We would like to thank you for continuing to work with us and engage on issues of interest and impact of the Community Radio sector, and we welcome the continuation of our regular meetings to feedback and work together for the betterment of all those involved in community radio. Our meetings have always been outcome based with good progress on many items, as well as positive for the sector and the relationship it has with you as the regulator.

We welcome to rollout of SSDAB, however we need to express frustration from the sector as to the length of time the process seems to be taking, and are concerned that in the current plan of work you are only proposing 2 rounds of SSDAB. With the growing audience percentage now consuming radio via DAB/DAB+, the community radio sector needs access to these digital platforms so they can better serve their current and future audiences, as such we would strongly welcome a speedier approach to the licensing of SSDAB, and a published plan and roadmap for the entire country with anticipated timeframes so that stations can be kept informed, and more importantly start planning for their own digital future.

We would also like to ask Ofcom to consider our proposal on the value and measurement of volunteer contributions as benefit in kind for community radio for sector analysis and for stations annual reporting. Whilst we all recognise that the sector would not be able to function without its volunteers, and that those volunteers are in fact priceless, at the moment we feel they are being undervalued by Ofcom in terms of their contribution to stations. At the current rate (which has not been updated in nearly 15 years), Ofcom is in danger of valuing community radio volunteers and a rate which would be under the Governments proposed living wage, and far below the living wage foundations values, and we feel as per our proposals already submitted that community radio volunteers should be valued much more in line with industry pay scales or presenters/journalists and for editors and managers (for senior volunteer roles). We would welcome a continued dialogue on this matter and would encourage Ofcom to develop their policy in this period of the work plan.

Our thanks for the continued support and relationship with Ofcom.

UK Community Radio Network

Representing, Supporting and Developing Ofcom licensed Community Radio Stations