

HNBT Response to Ofcom's consultation on the proposal to reduce Absolute Radio's AM/MW coverage

from

J PETER WILSON

Broadcasting Regulation Consultant

Heart of the Nation Broadcasting Team (HNBT)

Bridlington, East Yorkshire YO16 4NJ

The Heart of the Nation Broadcasting Team's Consultant, Mr. J Peter Wilson, gives our views in answer to Ofcom's invitation to comment on its consultation published on 9 February 2018. We give our answer to the consultation question which is posed as follows:

Question 1. Do you agree that Ofcom should give its consent to the reductions in AM (medium wave) transmitter coverage proposed by Absolute Radio? If you do not agree, please give reasons.

We believe that with 91% of the listening public having the ability to listen to Absolute Radio on DAB, as well as via Freeview, Freesat, Sky and the Internet (Apps/Computers) plus on FM in Great London and the West Midlands, therefore there are no valid reasons for Ofcom to stop Absolute Radio from reducing their AM/MW coverage of the UK population as laid out in their proposal. **We therefore support this proposal to reduce Absolute Radio's AM/MW coverage by reducing the power of the main high-power transmitters and by closing 12 low-powered filler transmitters.**

We, in addition, would add that we hope that once Absolute Radio is allowed to reduce its AM/MW coverage, which of course is in mono, that it will be possible for Absolute Radio to change its existing 80 kbps mono DAB transmissions on Digital 1 to a stereo signal either in 'original-flavour' DAB or perhaps in DAB+ AAC once the Digital 1 network is able to offer DAB+ as is already the case on the SDL National (Digital 2) network and some of the local multiplexes.

We trust that our response is of help to Ofcom.

Kind regards

J PETER WILSON

Broadcasting Regulation Consultant - Heart of the Nation Broadcasting Team (HNBT)

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