

## Radio Ceredigion withdraws its Format Change Request

Radio Ceredigion Limited ('RCL') has withdrawn its request to change the Format of the commercial radio licence it holds for Ceredigion.

The commercial radio licence for Ceredigion was [re-awarded to RCL in December 2018](#). The licence re-application was made on the basis of replacing the existing Radio Ceredigion service with a re-broadcast of South Wales regional service Nation Radio when the new licence period begins on 1 June.

Following its successful licence re-application (it was the sole applicant for the licence), RCL decided that it wished instead to continue with its existing Radio Ceredigion service, including a commitment to providing local content, including local news, for the Ceredigion area. Since we regarded the changes as being a significant departure to the service that was proposed by RCL in its licence re-application, we ran a four-week [consultation](#) on RCL's proposals, which closed on 10 May and elicited six responses.

However, RCL has now informed Ofcom that it wishes to withdraw the Format Change Request and will proceed to launch Nation Radio in Ceredigion, as per its original licence re-application, on 1 June.

While – as set out in the consultation document – we provisionally considered RCL's proposal to continue providing local content on the Ceredigion licence would increase the range of programming to a greater extent than what was proposed on re-award in December 2018, Ofcom does not have the power to require such changes in the absence of a Format Change Request. Given that the Format Change Request has been withdrawn, Nation Radio will therefore commence broadcasting to the Ceredigion area from 1 June on the basis of the Format it successfully re-applied for the licence with.

We noted that most of the respondents to the consultation were critical of RCL's decision not to continue, either as Radio Ceredigion or Nation Radio, the Format commitment to providing Welsh language programming which is contained in the current Ceredigion licence which expires on 31 May. As with the issues around the provision of local content, under the current legislation relating to commercial radio licensing Ofcom does not have the power to unilaterally impose Format conditions on a licensee beyond what it proposed in its successful licence application.