

## Your response

**Question 1: Respondents are invited to comment on whether they agree with Ofcom's preliminary view and to frame their views and responses with reference to, or in the context of, the statutory criteria in section 106(1A) of the Broadcast Act 1990 (as amended).**

XS Manchester has provided a platform for local, up and coming bands who have minimal access and engagement with the main competitor's output. Although consistently supporting new artists on all programmes, the station has numerous programmes dedicated to new music. With the loss of the station, local artists that fall under the indie/rock/alternative categories would struggle for radio plays and for many, would have a huge detriment on their exposure. As such, the proposed change would fail to meet section 106(1A)(c).

XS Manchester has established itself as the best radio station in Greater Manchester for indie, rock and alternative music. The main competitor (referenced as Radio X), provides little to no programming related directly to the region of Greater Manchester and therefore, section 106(1A)(b) would not be met.

The Manchester music scene has thrived for decades with the support of local radio stations. As well as bringing tourism to the city, the industry brings jobs to the city and provides a livelihood for many. Indie/rock/alternative music is at the forefront of the city's musical output, and if XS Manchester was to be lost, there could be huge impacts on tourism and also people's livelihoods. As the radio station plays a huge part in promotion of the Manchester music scene, it means that section 106(1A)(d) is not met.

The plans to re-brand the station from *"A rock and speech service for 35-64 year olds, with a strong commitment to local news, current affairs and interactive debate. Peak time programming will include a substantial amount of relevant speech"* to *"urban contemporary music service featuring music of an Afro-Caribbean origin"* clearly means that section 106(1A) is not met.

If XS Manchester was to be cease output, thousands of people in the Greater Manchester region would be deprived of a radio station that supports up and coming indie/rock/alternative artists and provides programming directly relevant to the local music scene.