

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).

I strongly disagree with the preliminary view formed. The loss of XS Manchester would represent a significant loss of amenity and heavily reduce the range of programmes available in the area.

XS Manchester caters for a unique market not served by the likes of Radio X (Manchester). Radio X (Manchester) was a significant departure from the XFM Manchester it replaced and targets a different audience. Many listeners of XS Manchester are not catered for by other commercial radio offerings, such as Absolute Radio or Radio X (Manchester), and the loss of this format of station would be to the detriment of the listening public.

The Urban music genre is heavily catered for in the Greater Manchester area, with several commercial radio stations covering this genre. Moreover, Capital XTRA (the proposed new service) is already available in the Greater Manchester area via DAB Digital Radio, with stations such as Capital FM (Greater Manchester) and Hits Radio (Greater Manchester) providing additional further coverage of the Urban Music genre.

XS Manchester is a unique radio station catering for a growing audience that is not represented elsewhere. The loss of XS Manchester would be a significant blow to the listening public and would cause a significant narrowing in the range of programmes available locally.

I urge you not to allow this change in format request in order to preserve and maintain a diverse radio market in the Greater Manchester area that caters for all listeners.