

Your response

Question

Do you agree that for the purposes of where locally-made programming may come from, Ofcom should approve the 'South of England (Bauer)' area in relation to the 12 local licences listed in Section 2 of this document? If you do not agree, please give reasons.

Your response

No, I do not agree. This will give Bauer the ability to remove local content from my radio station and network content from anywhere in the country, removing the local elements that I rely on. I can tune into any number of networked radio stations, but I only have one local radio station delivering local news, local traffic and local content. If this happens, presenters and other radio professionals' jobs will be lost. I know that Spirit FM in my West Sussex area has been a great employer over the years, this will be gone. It will have a huge impact on a wonderful community that has relied on their local station to keep them updated and entertained throughout one of the worst crises faced, Covid-19. And I understand they have recently reported some of their best listening figures ever. Over the years Spirit FM have supported hundreds of local issues and launched charity appeals that have really made a difference to our community and people's lives. Local radio offers charities the opportunity to raise their profiles, businesses to promote themselves and communities to have a voice. Keep radio local, where it matters to local people.