

Question 1

Question 1: Should Ofcom exercise its discretion to consent to the application to vary the Bradford small-scale multiplex licensed area, with regard to the statutory and policy considerations set out in this document?

Your response

Yes, we believe Ofcom should exercise its discretion and vary the Bradford small-scale DAB licensed area.

Question 2

Question 2: With reference to our impact assessment, do you agree with our assessment of the potential impacts of approving this application?

Your response

We believe that Ofcom's assessment, of the potential impacts **does not address all the issues arising from this application**. As this consultation is likely to set a precedent on the approval of future of other such applications, we believe that such assessments should also take into consideration:

- The overlap between the amended licensed area and its neighbouring licenced area(s)
- The impact that changes in the licensed area may have on any existing or future C-DSP service providers that may find themselves no longer in the licensed area.

Paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 address the issue of the population.

According to the figures, using the new transmitter site will reduce net coverage by around 8,000 people. However, around 35,000 people who are currently served by the Bradford multiplex will not be covered under the revised plan. This is a significant loss.

Ofcom says that *"Some of these areas are also served by the Leeds small-scale radio multiplex that offers a similar range of radio services, and is predicted to be available to approximately 19,000 of the adults losing coverage from Bradford"*. Notwithstanding the services that are common with the Leeds small-scale multiplex, this will likely set a precedent that allows for the alteration of areas where a catchment population, defined under the original licence, can be moved from one small-scale DAB area to another neighbouring area.

Paragraph A2.7 touches on community digital sound programme services.

Counterfactuals to one side, it is not clear what impact this change in the licensed area will have on aspirant/future C-DSP licence holders who might now find their physical presence outside of the new licenced area. A C-DSP licensee must have a physical presence within the small-scale licence area for which it is licensed. Without a clear understanding of how this would be applied in other areas, we consider this would amount to an adverse impact in reducing scope to provide and receive services benefiting equality groups.