

Dear Sir,

Further to the above consultation, I should like to offer the following as a suggestion in relation to current proposals to create two small scale DAB transmission areas on Teesside (Middlesbrough/Redcar & Stockton).

I was born and raised on Teesside, in Middlesbrough, have lived in Yarm on Teesside for nearly 30 years, am a former Borough Councillor on Stockton Council and currently work as a local government officer to Yarm Town Council. I have worked at various locations across Teesside and consider myself fully familiar with its demographics and travel to work tendencies and sense of locality.

My headline submission would be that it would be a mistake to separate Middlesbrough and Stockton within the terms of a small scale DAB transmission area. The two town are the heart of Teesside both physically and demographically with the majority of the daily movement of residents between these two conurbations. It would be a huge inconvenience which would present a significant obstacle to the successful establishment of separate Middlesbrough and Stockton areas as many would start in one area and lose connectivity as they travelled to the adjacent town. A successful launch is a challenge as it is without creating this unnecessary barrier to resident of Stockton and Middlesbrough enjoying a single transmission area.

The core Teesside area requires a single small scale DAB transmission area.

Finally, in relation to Redcar (affectionately known as "cod-heads" and "sand-scratchers") that part of Teesside has a more coastal identity and would be better linked with the communities along the coast, maybe as far as Whitby, a fact that is partly recognised in the local government structure that places the coastal and rural towns of East Cleveland, such as Guisborough, Saltburn, Lingdale, Skelton and Brotton, within the Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council area.

Thanks you for considering my submission which I trust you will find helpful in finalising your decision.