

GREAT TORRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL



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Town Clerk:- M.A.Tighe, DMS MBA

Our Ref MAT/PB

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Re: DAB in North Devon

My Council, on behalf of the community of Great Torrington, is opposed to any extension of the South Devon DAB services to North Devon.

The community is particularly concerned that such an extension will lead to:

1. If the South Devon DAB service is extended to North Devon, the current local FM transmitters will ultimately be switched off for good, and potentially as early as 2015.
2. If that happens, all the FN radios we currently have in our homes and our cars will become obsolete and to hear the services we presently listen to on our present radio once these services are switched off, we will HAVE to replace them with DAB radios.
3. The proposal would initially provide coverage of only **53%** of North Devon households, with a proposed coverage of only **70%** of households in future years.
4. This means that using their figures, once the FM transmitters are switched off, 30% of those who currently listen to local commercial radio AND BBC Radio Devon in North Devon will no longer be able to receive a signal.
5. North Devon and Torridge will be denied the opportunity to re-establish a genuinely local FM radio service for this community in the future because the present local FM licence would not be re-advertised.

For these reasons and those of local identity the proposal should be rejected. What this area has is a unique identity that should be supported by the establishment of its own local FM radio service serving the community. One has to live here to appreciate the separate interests and geography of the people. The population is not very large and is a 'close knit' community with its own identity.

M.A. Tighe
Town Clerk

28th June 2011