

Title:

Mr

Forename:

John

Surname:

Hart

Representing:

Organisation

Organisation (if applicable):

Devon County Council

Email:

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep nothing confidential

If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:

Ofcom may publish a response summary:

Yes

I confirm that I have read the declaration:

Yes

Ofcom should only publish this response after the consultation has ended:

You may publish my response on receipt

Additional comments:

Question 1: Do you think that allowing Now Digital to extend the coverage area of its Exeter & Torbay local radio multiplex licence to include North Devon would unacceptably narrow the range of DAB programme services available in the Exeter and Torbay area? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

Question 2: Do you think that allowing Now Digital to extend the coverage area of its Exeter & Torbay local radio multiplex licence to include North Devon would be calculated to maintain or promote the development of digital sound broadcasting in the UK otherwise than by satellite? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

I support the application to extend digital radio coverage into North Devon. As leader of the largest local authority in the South West, it is extremely important for us to communicate effectively and efficiently with our residents. Local media is a vital tool in this respect and I note the platform will provide digital coverage for Heart and BBC Radio Devon which are the two key radio stations covering the affairs of Devon County Council. As a premier tourist destination, it will also be helpful to our visitors, as well as our residents, to have access to a station providing traffic information digitally. The wider the coverage of the work of Devon County Council, the better we are able to communicate with local people, so the extension of the platform would certainly help the democratic process in this part of our county.

Question 3: Do you think that Now Digital's proposals for providing coverage of North Devon are satisfactory? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

Question 4: Do you consider that Now Digital has the ability to maintain its local radio multiplex service if its request is granted? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

Question 5: (For programme service providers on the Exeter & Torbay local radio multiplex only) Do you consider that there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect your rights and interests in the event that Now Digital is permitted to extend coverage to include North Devon?:

Question 6: Do you consider that there any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, the request from Now Digital? Please explain the reasons for your view.: