

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Howard

Surname:

Hawl

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

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.:

I am not aware that any narrowing of services would occur

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.:

North Devon is the only area in Devon without a local DAB service and has been so for some time. I have conducted my own tests with current DAB levels in this area in my car, and the robustness of the signal makes me believe that Now Digital's expansion would boost promotion of DAB.

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.:

The coverage figure from Huntshaw Cross looks low, but even with FM signals there are many areas of North Devon (deep valleys etc) where reception is marginal or non-existent. I have found existing DAB signals to be quite usable in most areas of North Devon.

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.:

I would assume that Now Digital has already done the mathematics as regards the ability to maintain a local multiplex.

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 are any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, the request from Now Digital? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

The original local radio provider in North Devon (Lantern FM) was not financially viable on its own, and although the Voice Group have shown extreme professionalism in the way they have run recent RSL stations in the area, I feel their success would be assured by applying and hopefully obtaining one of the presently advertised community radio licences. For viability of service in the future I feel that the Now Digital request be approved so that North Devon can have the same DAB service enjoyed by the rest of Devon for some years which very importantly will carry the signal from BBC Radio Devon also.