

Title:

Ms

Forename:

Emma

Surname:

Lowe

Representing:

Organisation

Organisation (if applicable):

North Devon Hospice

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.:

No

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.:

No

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.:

No, there currently is NO locally based radio station in North Devon. As a community fundraiser I have found the short licences awarded to thevoicefm to be invaluable. I believe, having viewed the plans, that there will not be sufficient signal coverage across 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.:

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.:

I believe that the people of North Devon who live and work here should be allowed to vote for whom they wish to provide their local radio. I don't believe Heart offer a valuable service to the North Devon area except when votes are needed. I feel that the way this whole situation has been handled, so that Heart get an automatic right to carry on broadcasting in North Devon is appalling! Heart is based in Plymouth and Exeter - both 60 miles away or more and to me that doesn't represent local radio. I feel that Ofcom should do the right thing and readvertise the FM licence and allow the North Devon people to make the choice and to all be able to listen to local radio again if that is their want. It seems to me too many people are deciding what we want without and making decision without actually asking us!