

Title:

Mr

Forename:

James

Surname:

Millar

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:

Yes

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.:

The loser would be North Devon. Since the closure of Lantern Radio with its North Devon origin programmes, there has virtually been no North Devon local radio. No local news,

misspronounced place names, no local reason to listen. The North Devon and Torridge parliamentary constituency areas form a compact social area deserving of a local radio service specifically devoted to this region. There is no connection with Exeter and Torbay.

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.:

A separate North Devon/Torridge geographic regional service, sourced from studios in the area, would be an opportunity to promote public acceptance of DAB radio. (The parliamentary North Devon and Torridge constituencies apply).

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. Geographically, socially and administratively North Devon is very separate from the South and East Devon regions.

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.:

Definitely not if they think it could be linked with the Exeter and Torbay areas. To be different from BBC Radio Devon it would need to be "totally North Devon". Otherwise, why bother with DAB?

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.:

North Devon deserves some restoration of its former "separateness" with Lantern local-origin local radio. This would be a "plus" for promoting DAB reception. Exeter and Torbay are much more closely linked with each other. Do not approve this application unless "wholly North Devon origin" radio programmes are assured by the applicant.