

Dear Ms Jackson

North Devon

My husband and I live on a residential park in Berrynarbor, a small village between Ilfracombe and Combe Martin on the north Devon northern coast.

The park is for people over the age of 50, with the majority of residents being in their 60's and 70's. I am writing on behalf of some of our residents as we understand that there is a proposal to introduce a DAB radio service to cater for local radio including BBC Radio Devon. We believe that it is proposed that at some stage in the future to switch over to a fully digital service only, and to switch off FM.

Some of our residents were extremely concerned that there might well be a repeat of the switchover to digital TV, which has left many with inferior TV reception, and others having to invest some of the little money they have on satellite TV equipment in order to watch the main channels. It has also been brought to my attention that the proposal appears to exclude all together the part of Devon that we live in, as well as most on the Bristol Channel coastline of Devon. This surely cannot be considered progress when thousands of people would be left with no local or regional radio service.

If this is the case the residents on this park would strongly oppose the proposal to introduce a DAB service to north Devon if it means we would lose local services.

We have already lost our local radio station when it closed down last year and moved to Exeter. This was a public service that the region had enjoyed for nearly 20 years and is sorely missed by many people.

Why can't we have a local radio station like most other parts of the country.

We don't want an inferior DAB service we would rather have local radio on FM because local radio is what the communities want and FM works fine. If it isn't broken why try to mend it !!!

Christine Pocock