

Title:

Forename:

Surname:

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Email:

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep name 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:

Serious concern about ultimate coverage along the Bristol Channel coast by digital terrestrial radio, especially when FM and AM services terminate. See below.

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.:

Probably not. However, many of the services offered by Now Digital are very similar, so limited restructuring would have minimal impact.

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.:

That would evidently be the intention. There are, however, serious concerns about reliable reception on domestic portable receivers and by in-car radios in undulating terrain. DRM+ on lower frequencies would have been a far superior choice, but Ofcom is not renowned for foresight...

DTR by outside aerial is not an acceptable substitute for the ubiquitous domestic portable and in-car radios in wide use today.

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.:

Not at all satisfactory. Post DSO, the Bristol Channel coast of North Devon is not well covered by DTT. Many still do not receive a satisfactory DTT service; many still receive frequent CCI from Carmel. The 800MHz and 600MHz sell-off means Ofcom has intentionally limited its options to provide a reasonable service in such CCI situations. The published coverage map for digital terrestrial radio indicates reception along the Bristol Channel coast will likewise be highly unsatisfactory. At the very least local relays will be imperative to assure reliable service in the area when FM and AM disappear (Lantern / Heart installed an FM relay at Ilfracombe in recognition of this.) This coverage requirement applies particularly to BBC Radio Devon, upon which listeners depend and to which there is no alternative. There must be NO CCI with services from Wales, as Ofcom has imposed with DTT.

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.:

One would hope so. But confidence in commercial companies and in Ofcom's integrity has suffered significantly in recent times.

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.:

Approve ONLY IF a service at least equal to current FM and AM coverage by BBC Radio Devon in North Devon, specifically including the Bristol Channel coast, is guaranteed.

Failing this FM and AM coverage as now **MUST**
be maintained.