

Title:

Mr

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:

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.:

Not necessarily. My interest is primarily in the impact of services in North Devon and Torridge areas - very different needs from those in the Exeter and Torbay regions.

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.:

I don't have sufficient technical knowledge to be able to comment on this, I'm afraid.

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. While there have been vague "promises" to the contrary there is widespread scepticism in North Devon. FM provides good consistent quality, there is no guarantee that we will get a comparable DAB signal - at least no convincing evidence has been put forward to reassure the local community that this will be the case.

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 have no detailed knowledge of Now Digital's capacity beyond what has been publicised in the local press so can't comment.

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?:

Not applicable to me as an individual listener.

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.:

As an area with a strong local culture, very different from those of Exeter (60 or so miles away) and Plymouth (just as remote from us), the people of North Devon want a truly local service that reflects their needs and aspirations - one that will be available for as many hours as possible 7 days a week. Heart FM is too remote and isn't in tune with the concerns of North Devon. Emphatically No - Ofcom should reject Now Digital's request and re-advertise the FM licence so there's a chance of localism meaning what it says on the tin - meeting the needs of local people not a distant commercial provider.