

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:

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.:

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.:

These proposals give the impression that North Devon will just been tacked-on to this multiplex. The proposed coverage is unfairly poor for the 30% who will not be able to receive these services. Radio listeners in North Devon have not been carefully enough considered, in that they will have significantly less of a service than the rest of the country- including even the rest of Devon.

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.:

These proposals are unsatisfactory and unfair for radio listeners in North Devon. If current FM broadcasting serves nearly the entirety of the population, it seems ridiculous to potentially reduce the service to 70%- were FM to be switched off.

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 wonders if revenue from local radio broadcasting would be reduced by a reduction in coverage. This would affect the viability of a local broadcasting- especially if FM were to be switched off- leaving North Devon with even less of a service.

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 feel that the automatic renewal of Global Radio's local license for North Devon is entirely unethical and unmerited. In my opinion- shared by many in this area- Heart (with programming coming from at least forty miles away, and much further with its network content which takes up most of its airtime) simply does not live up to your own localness guidelines. When there is a financially viable service that has shown to be very popular among locals and that would be truly North Devon-centric- it is simply unfair to exclude it from challenging the currently held license.