

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:

I live in North Devon. As far as I am aware, I'm in an area which won't receive coverage even if Now Digital is granted a licence. What I would like to know is how that Ofcom can make or even consider a decision to exclude a large number of people from receiving any form of local radio. It beggars belief that people who live in cities and have no idea about rural communities can make such decisions. It seems to me it's ok for large towns and cities to have as many radio stations as they like, but our local area can't even have one! Where I live, I find it easier to tune in to commercial stations in Wales (and there are a few) How can that be called providing a local service?

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.:

I don't care about Exeter and Torbay. They are over two hours drive from my home. I do care that a large percentage of the area where I live will be unable to receive the digital signal.

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.:

No, it will only cover part of North Devon. The people of North Devon, if they can get a signal at all, will probably end up receiving broadcasts from Wales. That can hardly be called local!

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. From my understanding 30% or more of the North Devon Area will be unable to receive the digital signal. This is totally unacceptable. North Devon is a large rural community and as such has a need for its own radio service completely separate from the south. Some of our cities have several commercial radio stations and yet, for some reason that I and lots of my fellow North Devon residents cannot understand, we are not deemed important enough to have one station based in our area, which serves the needs of the local community.

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.:

Personally, I don't care. I'm in the area that won't receive it anyway!

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 are any other grounds on which Ofcom should approve, or not approve, the request from Now Digital? Please explain the reasons for your view.:

Devon needs local radio. Everywhere else in the country has its local stations. What OFCOM does need to realise is that ALL of Devon needs local radio and this includes those of us living in the North of the county. We are not best served by a station which is based many miles away from us. Although, from the sounds of it, lots of us won't be served at all come the changeover. I would urge Ofcom to consider the proposals for North Devon to have its own LOCAL radio station.