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What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep nothing 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

Comments:

The CMA notes Ofcom's public purposes objectives as outlined in Section 4.28 and the contribution the community radio sector makes in achieving those purposes. Also we note that the sector plays a vital role in providing local services, which is crucial in times of crisis (floods etc).

While we have no particular comments on the questions re the future regulation of the commercial radio sector, we do believe that if there are decreasing obligations for those stations to provide local content locally produced, this will have an adverse effect on the provision of local information, making it even more important to expand the community radio network as the remaining source of ultra-local news and information on the radio.

Our particular comments are on Section 8 of the Review. We welcome the idea that community radio stations may be able to operate with more robust coverage through increased power, following migration by the national and large regional stations to digital radio. Many stations in urban areas do suffer from interference from illegal broadcasters so this would go some way to alleviating their problems.

We would also welcome the expansion of the community radio sector post migration, though we would also like to see a commitment by government and Ofcom to work on pathways for the sector to migrate over time, as there is a danger that at some point in the future a government might decide that there is no point in retaining the FM spectrum solely for small community and commercial stations.

Proposal 1: regional stations allowed to share programming to become national stations:

Proposal 2: creation of a new national multiplex from existing regional multiplexes:

Proposal 3: co-location within a new set of defined areas:

Proposal 4: programme sharing within the newly defined areas:

Proposal 5: mergers of local multiplexes:

Proposal 6: an enhanced news option for local FM stations:

Proposal 7: AM stations:

Proposal 8: Limited redefinition of contemporary music Formats: