

**Question 1: Should Ofcom accept that the level of exceptional circumstances as outlined by The Local Radio Company is such that we should agree to the co-location of Durham FM in Sunderland? (Financial information has been forwarded in confidence to Ofcom):**

No, I do not think that this is a sensible or justified proposal. After so many years, Durham City has finally achieved its goal of having its own dedicated radio station with its own local reporters who know the local intimately. They have done a superb job in a very short space of time and their awards have been fully deserved. The new proposal will mean that the heart of the station will be transferred out of the region where most of the events are happening. This seems to me to be a backward step which will lead to the dissipation of the uniqueness of the station. I hope that the proposal will be firmly rejected!