

I am disappointed that such a move is even being considered. What counts as local radio? Surely there are clear and precise criteria which would not be met by Durham FM being based in Sunderland?

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. The news bulletins are excellent covering local news in some detail and often at first hand. I fear that they will suffer if reporters are based outside the broadcasting area. Durham is at the heart of the county both culturally and geographically and the station is visible at many events in the city and adjacent area. The move would be a retrograde step and in the longer term the station would be 'local' in name only undermining the logic and rationale of local radio which surely Ofcom is there to defend