

FAO: Mr Martin Campbell,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2a Southwark Bridge Road,
London SE1 9HA

27TH January 2009

Dear Martin,

Durham FM proposed re-location to Sun FM premises in Sunderland

As you know, GMG Radio operates two regional radio services transmitting across the North East of England on analogue and DAB and we believe the area is well covered in terms of regional services reaching most demographics and catering for many tastes and interests when included alongside Galaxy FM on both platforms.

Having read the Durham FM application to share location only and not programming with Sun FM, we would on the face of the information published, support the proposal provided that in future the Darlington and Northallerton southern (to the region) based licences are restricted from merging programmes with a combined Sun FM and Durham FM northern service during peak-time hours.

Our primary concern is that these individual services are not allowed in the future to merge into a regional service with common programming that would by its nature, be competing with both ourselves and the Galaxy regional service. Provided they retain their individual local output we are supportive of their ambition.

We would therefore strongly suggest that should the re-location requirement be acceptable to Ofcom, then it should be conditional on retaining and providing agreed quantities of individual local programming on each of the services currently licensed by the applicant in the North East Region.

Yours sincerely on behalf of GMG Radio

Jeff Stephenson

Development Director and Head of Compliance