

As a Durham resident and a trained journalist I think it is appalling that Durham FM is considering re-locating.

The fact that the slogan for Durham FM as part of the local radio company is "The Station That Lives and Loves Durham", should surely signify that they should be based in the city.

I am a regular listener to the station both for leisure and information. I find the level of local knowledge, particularly during the breakfast show, invaluable.

To know that your presenter has at least had to drive through the city that morning gives his information a certain validity. He is really talking from experience when he says the weather is grim outside, or the traffic was backed up on his way in.

Regarding news bulletins, I can speak from experience when I say that there is no suitable replacement for a good knowledge of the local patch and first hand local experience.

There are only so many press releases and news stories that can be regurgitated from other sources before the news seems thin and irrelevant to local people.

Knowing that journalists will travel far and wide for a job, particularly in the current economic climate, it is no comfort to know that someone from out of the area could travel in to work for a supposedly local station and never have even set foot in any of the places they are talking about.

I love my city and I am a dedicated supporter of keeping our media as local as possible. There is no reason why our station cannot continue to be based in our city and any move to change the location will be to the detriment of broadcasting quality and locally sourced and produced news and features.

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 size of the population exceeds the figures suggested by Ofcom as making a station suitable for co-location added to that the comments outlined above, I cannot see how the station has a case for moving.