
Small-scale DAB: expressions of interest 2023

Summary of responses

[Small-scale DAB: expressions of interest 2023](#) – Welsh translation available

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1. Overview

This document contains a summary of the responses Ofcom received to an invitation for 'expressions of interest' in small-scale DAB, which we ran during the spring of 2023.

We carried out this exercise to provide us with up-to-date information on the level of demand from potential multiplex providers and/or programme service providers in areas where we have not yet advertised small-scale DAB licences, which will help us to prioritise future licence advertisements.

Of the 97 areas we have planned not yet advertised, we received expressions of interest in operating a multiplex and/or a programme service in a total of 65 of these areas.

- 1.1 Ofcom originally sought expressions of interest to run small-scale DAB services in 2018, and a summary of the responses we received is available on our [website](#). The results of this original exercise were the main input we used to define the areas which we would advertise as part of the small-scale DAB licensing programme and has also helped us to prioritise our advertisements to date. So far, 129 of these areas have been advertised and 97 currently remain unadvertised. Recent licensing rounds have attracted applications for around 80% of the areas we advertised. However, many of the areas where we expect the highest levels of demand from potential applicants have now been advertised.
- 1.2 To help prioritise the next rounds of licensing (and recognising the significant elapsed time since the original 2018 expression of interest exercise), Ofcom sought updated [expressions of interest](#) for the remaining unadvertised areas during the spring of 2023. This document provides a summary of the responses we received.
- 1.3 Maps and accompanying tabulated lists showing the areas for which expressions of interest were received are in Sections 3 to 6 of this document as detailed below.
 - i) **Section 3** (map 1 and table 1) shows the areas for which we received one or more expressions of interest to operate a **small-scale DAB multiplex**;
 - ii) **Section 4** (map 2 and table 2) shows the areas for which we received one or more expressions of interest to operate one or more **programme services (DSP or C-DSP)** on a small-scale DAB multiplex;
 - iii) **Section 5** (map 3 and table 3) shows the areas for which we received one or more expressions of interest to both operate a **small-scale DAB multiplex and identified one or more programme services** for it; and
 - iv) **Section 6** (map 4 and table 4) shows the unadvertised areas for which we received **no expressions of interest**.
 - v) **Section 7** (table 5) contains a summary of the number of each type of expression of interest submitted for each area. The table in Section 7 also includes those areas that received no expressions.
- 1.4 The geographical areas shown for each location reflect the areas originally published in our April 2020 "[Statement on licensing small-scale DAB](#)".

- 1.5 Having received this input from stakeholders we expect to announce the areas which will form the sixth round of small-scale DAB multiplex licensing during the autumn of 2023.

2. Notes on the expressions of interest responses

- 2.1 Some respondents who stated that they were interested in operating a programme service did not indicate whether this was likely to be a DSP or a C-DSP service. This may have reflected uncertainty on the part of respondents or may have been an error. However, given that the intended status was not clear in all cases, the data on programme service responses in this document does not distinguish between C-DSP, DSP or indeterminate respondents.
- 2.2 Although our request for expressions of interest was limited to areas not yet advertised, we also received requests from stakeholders to re-advertise four areas for which no applications were submitted when originally advertised. These (along with their corresponding advertisement rounds) were Ards Peninsula (Round 4), Shaftesbury & Blandford (Round 3), South Aberdeen (Round 3), and The Wirral (Round 2).
- 2.3 We also received requests for new small-scale DAB areas for the Scottish Highlands and for the Orkney Islands. Ofcom has separately received a small number of other requests to add areas to the small-scale DAB advertising programme.
- 2.4 Some respondents suggested changing the shape of individual areas before they are advertised, or to merge adjacent areas.

3. Multiplex responses

Map 1: small-scale DAB areas where interest in only running a multiplex was received from an individual respondent

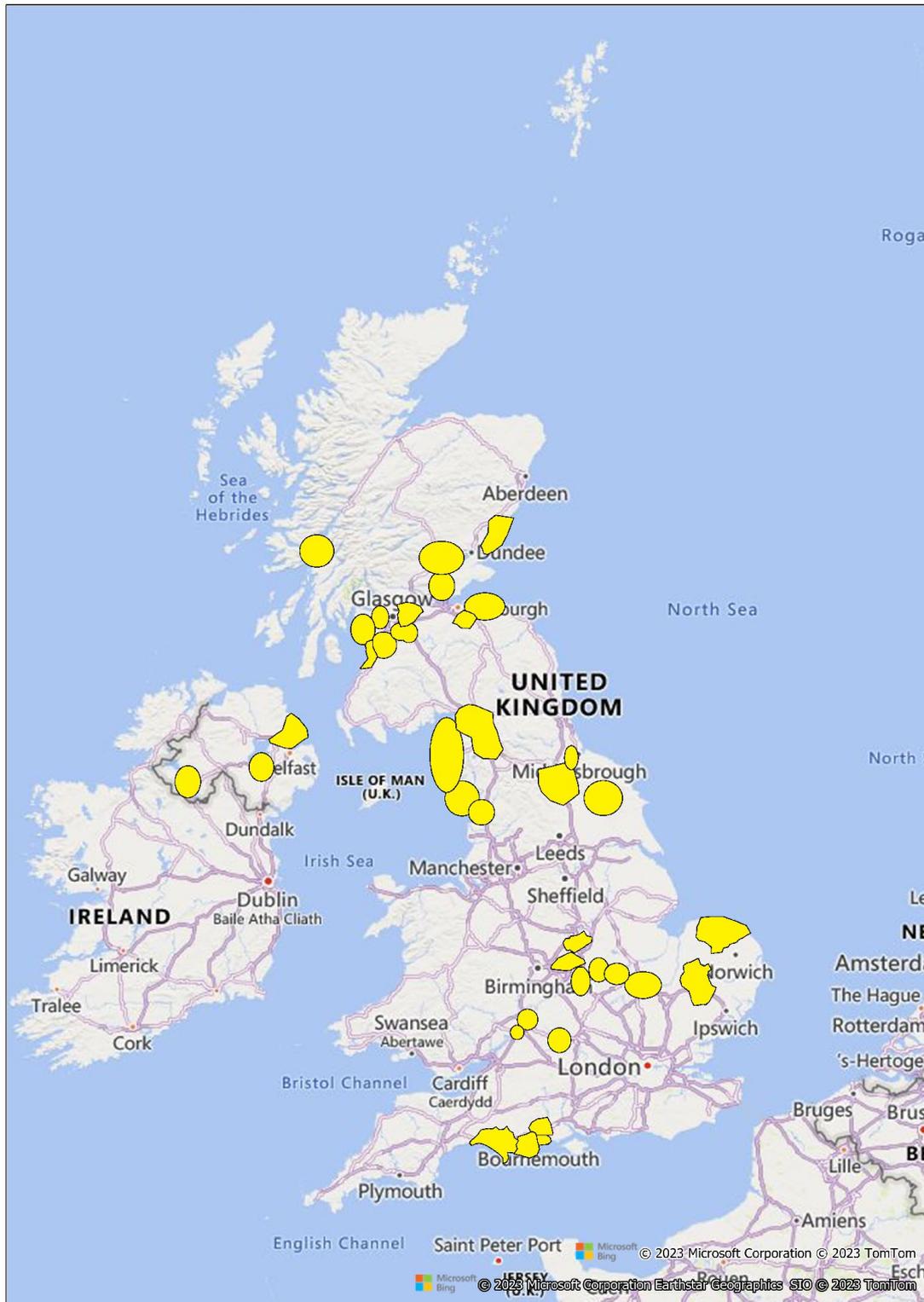


Table 1: small-scale DAB areas where interest in only running a multiplex was received from an individual respondent

Area name	Number of expressions
Arbroath, Carnoustie & Montrose	One
Ayr, Troon & Irvine	Two
Barrow-in-Furness	Four
Bournemouth & Boscombe	One
Bury St Edmunds, Thetford & Mildenhall	Two
Carlisle & Penrith	Two
Catterick, Ripon & Thirsk	One
Cheltenham & Tewksbury	One
Corby & Kettering	One
Cumbernauld & Coatbridge	Two
Dunfermline & Kinross	One
East Edinburgh & S Forth coast	One
Enniskillen	One
Gloucester	One
Huntingdon & Surrounds	One
Kilmarnock	One
Lanarkshire	Two
Lancaster	Two
Larne, Carrickfergus & Newtown Abbey	Two
Loughborough & Coalville	One
Malton	One
Market Harborough	One
Midlothian	One
North Norfolk	One
North Ayrshire	Two
Nuneaton & Hinckley	Two
Oban	One
Paisley & West Glasgow	Two

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Area name	Number of expressions
Perth	One
Poole, Purbeck & Wimborne	One
Portadown & Craigavon	One
Ringwood, Verwood & Fordingbridge	One
Rugby & Daventry	One
Stockton-on-Tees	One
Weymouth, Dorchester & Bridport	One
Workington & Whitehaven	Two

4. Programme service responses

Map 2: small-scale DAB areas where interest in only operating a programme service was received from an individual respondent

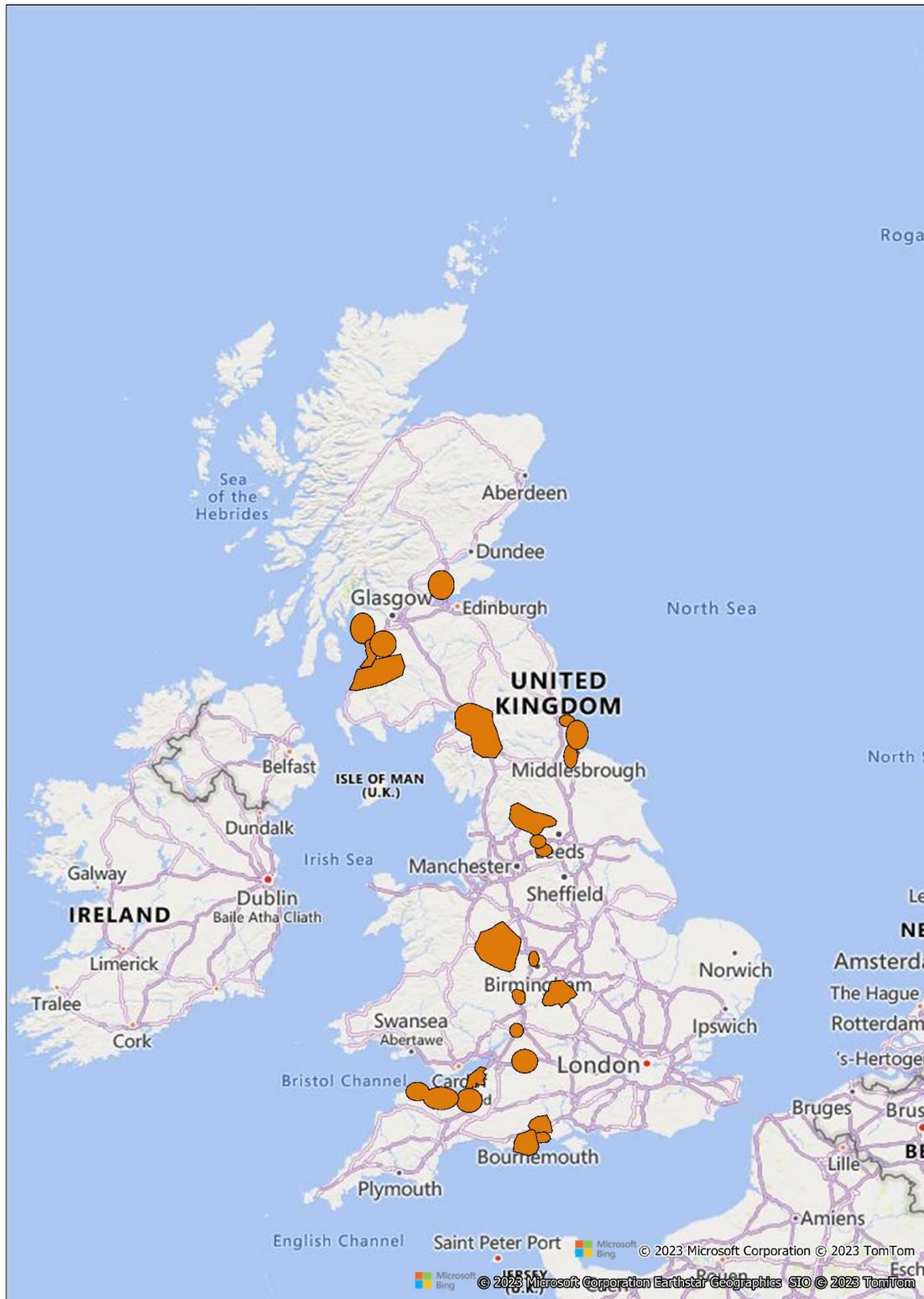


Table 2: small-scale DAB areas where interest in only operating a programme service was received from an individual respondent

Area name	Number of expressions of interest received
Ayr, Troon & Irvine	Two
Bournemouth & Boscombe	Two
Bridgewater	Two
Carlisle & Penrith	Three
Chippenham & Malmesbury	One
Dunfermline & Kinross	One
Girvan & New Cumnock	One
Gloucester	One
Halifax	One
Huddersfield	One
Kilmarnock	One
Leamington Spa & Stratford-upon-Avon	One
North Ayrshire	Two
Peterlee	One
Poole, Purbeck & Wimborne	Two
Ringwood, Verwood & Fordingbridge	Two
S Craven, Wharfedale, Worth Valley	One
Stockton-on-Tees	One
Sunderland	One
Telford & Shrewsbury	Three
Walsall	One
West Somerset & Lynton	One
Weston-Super-Mare	One
Worcester	One

5. Multiplex and programme service responses

Map 3: small-scale DAB areas where interest in operating both a multiplex and programme service(s) were received from an individual respondent

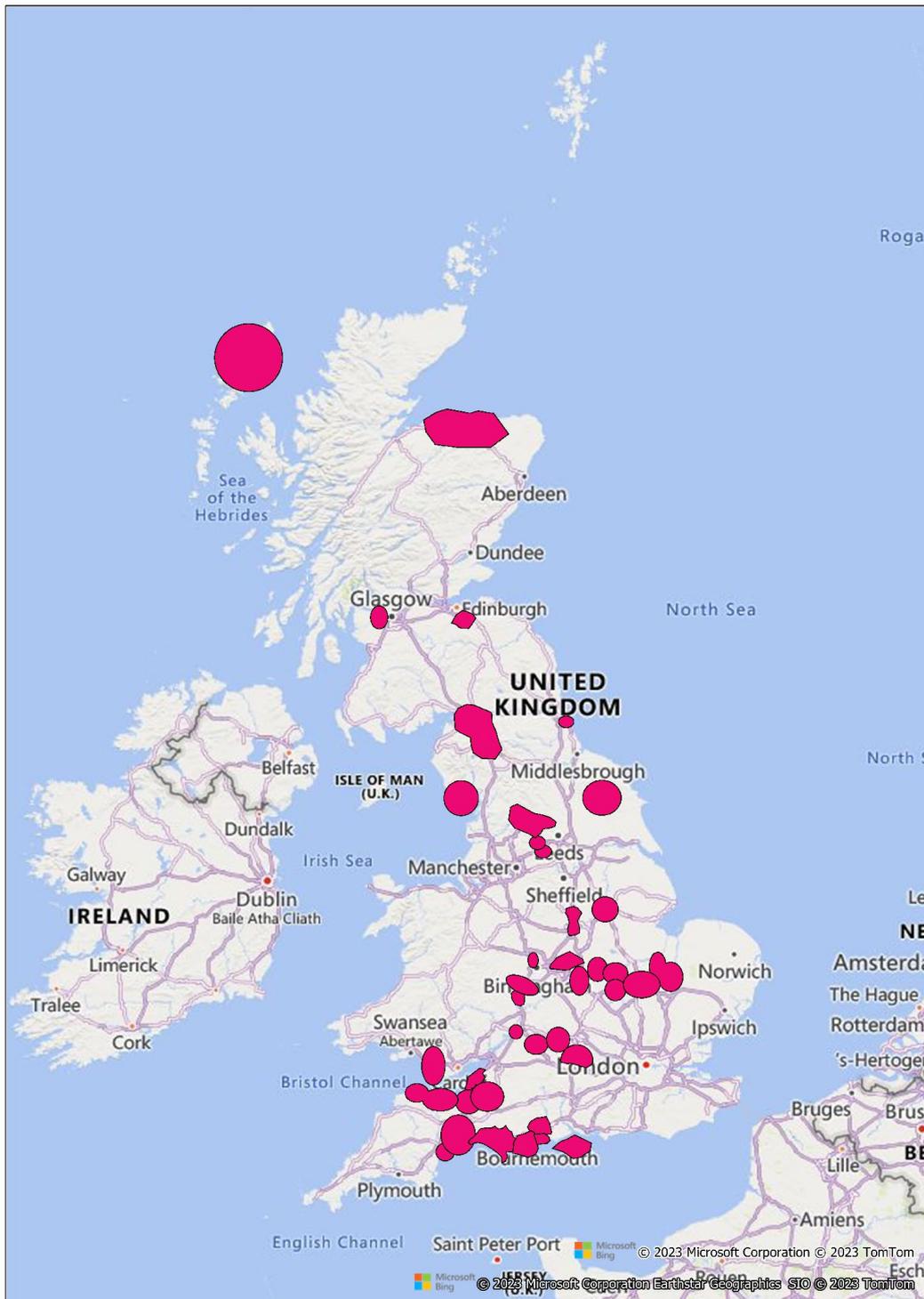


Table 3: small-scale DAB areas where interest in operating both a multiplex and programme service(s) were received from an individual respondent

Area name	Number of expressions of interest received
Barrow-in-Furness	One
Berkshire north & south Oxfordshire	One
Bournemouth & Boscombe	Two
Bridgend	One
Bridgewater	One
Bromsgrove, Kidderminster& Redditch	One
Carlisle & Penrith	One
Cirencester	One
Corby & Kettering	One
East Devon	two
Ely & March	One
Erewash	Two
Exmouth & Dawlish	One
Gloucester	One
Halifax	One
Huddersfield	One
Huntingdon & Surrounds	One
Isle of Wight	Two
Malton	One
Market Harborough	One
Midlothian	One
Moray Coast South	One
Newark-on-Trent	One
North Somerset	One
Nuneaton & Hinckley	One
Paisley & West Glasgow	One
Poole, Purbeck & Wimborne	One
Ringwood. Verwood & Fordingbridge	One

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Area name	Number of expressions of interest received
Rugby & Daventry	One
S Craven, Wharfedale, Worth Valley	Two
Sunderland	One
Walsall	One
Wellingborough	Two
West Somerset & Lynton	One
Western Isles	One
Weston-Super-Mare	One
Weymouth, Dorchester & Bridport	One
Witney	One
Worcester	One

6. Areas with no expressions of interest

Map 4: unadvertised small-scale DAB areas for which no expression of interest was received

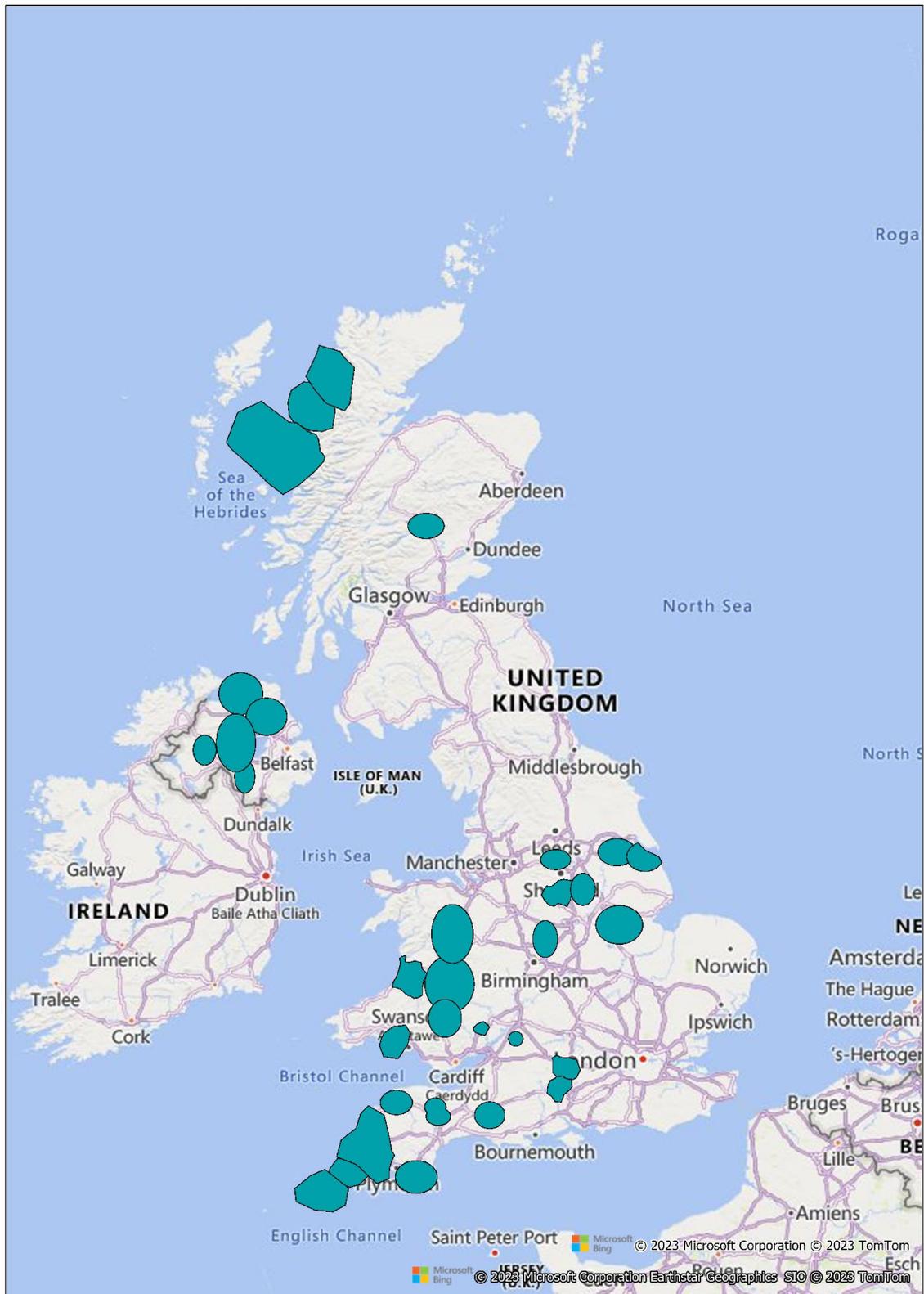


Table 4: unadvertised small-scale DAB areas for which no expression of interest was received

Area name	Number of expressions of interest received
Aberystwyth	None
Andover	None
Armagh	None
Ballymena	None
Barnsley	None
Barnstaple & Bideford	None
Brecon	None
Burton-on-Trent	None
Chesterfield	None
Coleraine	None
Cookstown & Dungannon	None
East Cornwall	None
Falmouth, Penzance & Redruth	None
Gairloch	None
Grantham & Sleaford	None
Grimsby	None
Llanelli	None
Mansfield & Worksop	None
Monmouth	None
Newbury	None
Newquay, St Austell & Truro	None
North Powys	None
Omagh	None
Pitlochry & Aberfeldy	None
Scunthorpe	None
Skye & Lochalsh	None
South Hams	None
South Powys	None

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Area name	Number of expressions of interest received
Stroud	None
Tiverton	None
Ullapool	None
Yeovil	None

7. Summary of all responses by area

Table 5: summary of all expressions of interest received (including areas for which no expression of interest was received)

Area name	Multiplex only	Programme service only	Multiplex and Programme service	No Expression received
Aberystwyth				X
Andover				X
Arbroath, Carnoustie & Montrose	One			
Ayr, Troon & Irvine	Two	Two		
Ballymena				X
Barnsley				X
Barnstaple & Bideford				X
Barrow-in-Furness	Four		One	
Berkshire north & south Oxfordshire			One	
Bournemouth & Boscombe	One	Two	Two	
Brecon				X
Bridgend			One	
Bridgewater		Two	One	
Bromsgrove, Kidderminster & Redditch			One	
Burton-on-Trent & Lichfield				X
Bury St Edmunds, Thetford & Mildenhall	Two			
Carlisle & Penrith	Two	Three	One	

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Area name	Multiplex only	Programme service only	Multiplex and Programme service	No Expression received
Catterick, Ripon & Thirsk	One			
Cheltenham & Tewkesbury	One			
Chesterfield				X
Chippenham & Malmesbury		One		
Cirencester			One	
Coleraine				X
Cookstown & Dungannon				X
Corby & Kettering	One		One	
Cumbernauld & Coatbridge	Two			
Dunfermline & Kinross	One	One		
East Cornwall				X
East Devon			Two	
East Edinburgh & S Forth Coast	One			
Ely & March			One	
Enniskillen	One			
Erewash			Two	
Exmouth & Dawlish			One	
Falmouth, Penzance & Redruth				X
Gairloch				X
Girvan & Cumnock		One		
Gloucester	One	One	One	
Grantham & Sleaford				X

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Area name	Multiplex only	Programme service only	Multiplex and Programme service	No Expression received
Grimsby				X
Halifax		One	One	
Huddersfield		One	One	
Huntingdon & Surrounds	One		One	
Isle of Wight			Two	
Kilmarnock	One	One		
Lanarkshire	Two			
Lancaster	Two			
Larne, Carrickfergus & Newton Abbey	Two			
Leamington Spa, & Stratford-on-Avon		One		
Llanelli				X
Loughborough & Coalville	One			
Malton	One		One	
Mansfield & Worksop				X
Market Harborough	One		One	
Midlothian	One		One	
Monmouth				X
Moray Coast South			One	
Newark-on-Trent			One	
Newbury				X
Newquay, St Austell & Truro				X
North Norfolk	One			
North Ayrshire	Two	Two		
North Powys				X

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Area name	Multiplex only	Programme service only	Multiplex and Programme service	No Expression received
North Somerset			One	
Nuneaton & Hinckley	Two		One	
Oban	One			
Omagh				X
Paisley & West Glasgow	Two		One	
Perth	One			
Peterlee		One		
Pitlochry & Aberfeldy				X
Poole, Purbeck & Wimborne	One	Two	One	
Portadown & Craigavon	One			
Ringwood, Verwood & Fordingbridge	One	Two	One	
Rugby & Daventry	One		One	
S Craven, Wharfedale, Worth Valley		One	Two	
Scunthorpe				X
Skye & Lochalsh				X
South Hams				X
South Powys				X
Stockton-on-Tees	One	One		
Stroud				X
Sunderland		One	One	
Telford & Shrewsbury		Three		
Tiverton				X
Ullapool				X

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Area name	Multiplex only	Programme service only	Multiplex and Programme service	No Expression received
Walsall		One	One	
Wellingborough			Two	
West Somerset & Lynton		One	One	
Western Isles			One	
Weston-Super-Mare		One	One	
Weymouth, Dorchester & Bridport	One		One	
Witney	One		One	
Worcester		One	One	
Workington & Whitehaven	Two			
Yeovil				X