

DCMS Consultation Paper - Data Limits and Data Services on Radio Multiplexes

- 1. Do respondents agree that DCMS should introduce an order which would allow TV services to be carried on a radio multiplex without the need for the radio multiplex to be reclassified as a TV multiplex?***

UTV Radio supports the proposed legislative change to allow TV services to be carried on a Radio Multiplex without Multiplex reclassification. This is consistent with the addition of radio services to TV multiplexes and will also allow the commercial launch of BT Movio.

- 2. Do respondents agree that the data limits on radio multiplexes should be increased to 30%?***

UTV Radio supports the development of DAB radio and developments that will increase the penetration of DAB-enabled devices into the market to assist in the growth of radio listening are welcome e.g. Mobile phones with integrated DAB-chipsets. Increasing the data limit to 30% will also allow new audio-related data services onto multiplexes thereby increasing choice for consumers and building the DAB proposition.

We note however that that this consultation will benefit the national digital network operated by Digital One and will be applied to the second national digital network when launched.

UTV Radio as an operator of a number of local multiplexes, would wish to see the similar regulatory relaxation that is being granted to Digital One be applied to local licensees and also that any precedents that are being set with Digital One will not be applied to local multiplex licensees.

Local Multiplex Licensees

The removal of two and more recently a third audio service from the original bouquet of ten services was not seen by Ofcom to unacceptably diminish the appeal of the national multiplex otherwise the variation would not have been allowed i.e. the capacity of those programme services to appeal to a variety of tastes and interests would be unacceptably diminished (as a result of the variation).

Should the data limit increase to 30% but the addition of data services to this new level requires the removal of audio service(s) we would ask that Ofcom would show similar flexibility in variation requests from local multiplex licensees.

Regulatory Precedents

We would not wish that particular circumstances that are being applied to Digital One with respect to services being carried in mono or stereo will set regulatory precedents for other multiplex operators.

The change of services from stereo to mono or vice versa, is as we understand, not a licence condition requiring regulatory approval. Technical compliance relates to minimum error protection and bit rate. Whilst these are listed in Annex IV of multiplex licenses we understand that these are not regulatory restrictions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Rose'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'R'.

Daniel Rose
Digital Development
UTV Radio (GB) Ltd