

SEND EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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Affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
Minister: Rev Owen Jones, 88 Potters Lane, Send, Woking Surrey GU23 7AL

8 January 2002

Dear Secretaries of State

CONSULTATION ON THE MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consultation on Media Ownership Rules. As a Church, we consider our remit mainly to respond to Question III which invites comments on religious organisations holding broadcasting licences. We are firmly of the view that religious organisations should be able to hold a national digital sound programme service licence and a multiplex licence (local or national). We see no reason why religious organisations should be discriminated against.

Furthermore, we consider the Christian Church and Christian Organisations should enjoy the same freedoms on the airwaves as apply to lesser religions and sects. In particular, we hold up the recent case where Premier Christian Radio has been cautioned by the Radio Authority for remarks made in the course of broadcasting what are in effect Church Sermons following complaints by the Occult and Mysticism Federation.

We do not believe the Broadcasting Act was ever intended to restrict the transmission of material which would be considered perfectly acceptable Christian teaching in the majority of Churches in the United Kingdom. This anomaly needs to be addressed in any subsequent legislation to protect our great Christian heritage.

Yours sincerely
Owen Jones
Minister of the Send Evangelical Church
www.SendEC.org