

## Community Radio Consultation

### Questions

1. Do you agree with the proposed criteria for Ofcom to apply when considering a 5 year extension?

Yes - In many cases licensees will have spent anywhere between 2 and 10 years planning and applying for a license. It takes about 2 years to become established - by which time there is just 3 years left to continue planning for the future. Plans relating to premises, transmission facilities and grant funding are easier to work with in the knowledge that the license would be extended subject to satisfactory performance. Community stations are social enterprises with volunteers investing time and effort - not a business enterprise looking for a financial return on investment. Those persons running community stations deserve a return on their time invested in the form of the privilege to continue doing what they are passionate about - and the listeners deserve to keep what they have come to value and enjoy.

2. Do you think the 50% funding restriction from any one source should be lifted?

Yes - it is extremely difficult to balance income. There are no guarantees whatsoever that a station will get even a percentage of the grants they apply for. If advertising income is restricted there is the danger of a station folding. Stations should still be not for profit but they have to pay the bills by whatever means possible.

3. i) Do you think that the rule prohibiting a community radio station from being licensed if it would overlap with an existing local radio service whose MCA is no more than 50,000 adults, should be lifted?

Yes - this gives an unfair advantage to commercial radio. In any case, invariably the community stations go for the smaller, local businesses who probably find the cost of commercial radio advertising prohibitive. Freedom of choice for advertisers should apply.

ii) If so, should the advertising and sponsorship restriction be applied to community radio stations that overlap with local radio services of up to 150,000 adults? No - no limits

Thank You

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