

THE UNITED CHURCH - WARMINSTER

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19th August 2009

Community Radio Consultation
Media Directorate
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
5th Floor
2 – 4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sirs

RE: Warminster Community Radio (WCR) – Fulltime Broadcast Licence

I write on behalf of the Members of the Warminster United Church (Methodist/URC) who asked me at a recent Church Council Meeting to offer our support to WCR's intention to apply for a licence to provide a full time radio station for the community and surrounding villages of Warminster, should the proposals within the recent Myers Report be adopted by the Government.

We believe that WCR has fulfilled the needs of the community for a truly local radio station during the fourteen years of operation. They have achieved this by their professional and dedicated approach to broadcasting and by involving the participation of the community in the operation of the station. They have just completed a very successful 28 day RSL broadcast which attracted many listeners (several new). Of particular note was the high level of personal contact between the station's Radio Presenters and listeners during broadcasts via email, telephone and studio visits. This level of contact was enjoyed by all, listeners and Presenters alike.

WCR provides an excellent mix of programmes to the community including music, news, features, and a forum for airing issues concerning the local community and the wider world. Their music programmes cover a wide range of genres (classic, music hall, rock, country etc.), including live broadcasts, all of which have been presented by knowledgeable local Presenters to the highest broadcasting standards. They have also worked with all the churches in Warminster to provide a valuable and unique twenty minute Sunday Service every week within a two hour magazine style programme addressing various religious and faith issues.

We understand that the recent Myers Report on Community Radio has led to a Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) Consultation Document which is seeking answers to the following questions as part of the Community Radio Consultation. We submit our answers to the questions in the DCMS Consultation Document that relate particularly to WCR's position with regards to a full time licence:

1. Do you agree with the proposed criteria for Ofcom to apply when considering a 5 year extension? **YES**
2. Do you think the 50% funding restriction from any one source should be lifted? **YES**

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- 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**
- (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**

There is no doubt that WCR is unique in our community as no other local station provides such a diversity of programmes to such a high quality and we would endorse any application by them for a full time licence. Therefore we would support Article 4.7 of the Consultation which proposes to allow community stations to co-exist with small commercial stations.

Yours sincerely



John Alpin
Church Council Secretary
The United Church Warminster