

**Welsh Assembly Government Response to DCMS Consultation on Amendments to the Community Radio Licensing Regime**

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

The Welsh Assembly Government is keen to support any measures that are of benefit to community radio stations in Wales. Although we do agree that this could make financial planning a little difficult for some stations, we believe that it will allow for long term planning which can be reflected in funding applications by community radio stations. We also believe that this extension would be of benefit to stations applying to the Welsh Assembly Government Community Radio Fund which is dependent on an Ofcom licence.

*Do you think the 50% funding restrictions from any one source should be lifted?*

The Welsh Assembly Government is partially in favour of lifting the 50% funding restrictions from any one source. Many community radio stations find that they are only eligible for one source of funding or find that restrictions imposed by the organisation offering funding can exclude their application. Lifting this restriction would allow many hyper-local stations to receive funding from local and national sources. However, we do have a concern that under Ofcoms currently regulation some community radio stations could be viewed as commercial stations if more than 50% of their funding comes from a commercial source.

*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?*

The Welsh Assembly Government does not agree with this recommendation. We are concerned with the protection of hyper-local community radio stations along with the protection of small commercial stations. Given the nature of the distribution of small radio stations in Wales and our particular concern with protecting stations in urban and city areas we cannot support this change.

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**Date:** 10 August 2009

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### **Issue**

1. The Welsh Assembly Government have been asked to reply to the DCMS *Consultation on Amendments to the Community Radio Licensing Regime*.

### **Background**

2. Following the publication of the *Digital Britain* report DCMS made a commitment to hold consultations on many of the reports recommendations.
3. The first of these consultations is on the proposed amendments to the Community Radio Licensee Regime.
4. Full details of the consultation can be found at **Doc 1**.

### **Advice**

5. That you approve the attached response (at **Doc 2**) to the DCMS consultation.

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