

Response to Ofcom Consultation on Radio: preparing for the future - Phase 2: Implementing the framework

This memorandum is written on behalf of
Christian Broadcasting Council



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The Christian Broadcasting Council of the United Kingdom (CBC) welcomes Ofcom's invitation to answer the question raised in the document **Radio: preparing for the future - Phase 2: Implementing the framework**. The question is:

Do you agree with the proposed procedure and considerations for dealing with requests for format changes to analogue commercial local radio stations?

Overall CBC would agree with Ofcom's proposals regarding Format changes and we highlight some specific points below:

In paragraph 7.24 we would strongly agree with point two that there should be no format changes within the first two years of a licence been awarded and with point five that highlights the avoidance of 'Format creep'.

In some parts of the country there is already significant overlap in play-lists between 'Heritage FM' stations and the newer small city-based FM stations and this reduces the music choice for listeners. The licensing of analogue stations with different formats such as rock music, Christian praise and worship music, and melodic music for the over 50s does increase choice for listeners and this should be encouraged.

We would agree that AM stations should be allowed to substantially change their formats, provided that they do not creep into the territory of the existing FM stations. It may be that the current AM services that are simulcasting on DAB should offer a different format on AM or even sell their AM operation to another broadcaster who has the expertise to offer a format, such as religious programming, that will increase listener choice.

We look forward to participating the next stage of Ofcom's consultation regarding the licensing of radio and trust that this memorandum will be of help to Ofcom.

Yours truly,

Mrs Olave Snelling
Chairman of the Executive Council – Christian Broadcasting Council

J Peter Wilson
Consultant to CBC on Broadcasting Regulation

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The Christian Broadcasting Council, known as CBC, was founded in 1983:

- ✓ *To stimulate and promote the knowledge of the Christian faith and the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the broadcasting media in the United Kingdom.*
- ✓ *To encourage the highest standards of Christian media communication.*
- ✓ *To support and develop the knowledge and standards of all those involved in broadcasting.*
- ✓ *To bring together in fellowship those working in broadcasting and those who support the vision of CBC, under girding and encouraging them in their spiritual lives.*

Membership is open to individuals, corporate bodies and Christian ministries. The Executive Committee of CBC contains representatives from the independent Christian broadcasting sector including radio (community, commercial & RSL), television and independent production.