

Your response

Question	Your response
Do you have any comments on our proposals?	<p>Confidential N</p> <p>Bedford Radio is calling on Ofcom to undertake a limited and specific round of analogue licensing to enable Bedford Radio to apply for an FM license this year.</p> <p>Bedford Radio has been in the planning for several years and was denied the opportunity to apply for a license in 2018 despite being invited to submit an expression of interest by Ofcom.</p> <p>Bedford does not currently have a local radio or community radio station that serves the whole town, there is a good and viable existing community station, but its license is for a niche audience of “14 to 35 in Bedford and surrounding areas with an interest in urban music”.</p> <p>Bedford Radio has received significant support from the local area, from local community organisations, council, and the MP for Bedford. There is a desire for Bedford Radio to serve the town as an opportunity to bring the town together and help raise the profile of the town, and the activities of the diverse and active communities and community groups and organisations within the town, not to mention support the economic recovery and development of the town which boasts one of the highest number of independent shops for its size.</p> <p>Bedford Radio is currently broadcasting online with a growing number of presenters (we launched under covid lockdown so have yet to even begin to realise our potential with volunteer presenters and await the opportunity to officially open our studio), whilst we have a growing listenership as an online station, we acknowledge that we can only truly serve the whole community of the town and borough through more mainstream broadcast methods.</p> <p>We welcome the opportunities that SSDAB brings and we are looking forward to the opportunity to apply to operate the Bedford MUX in partnership with other community organisations and launch Bedford Radio on the SSDAB MUX.</p> <p>However, Ofcom has not currently published a timetable for when Bedford can expect to apply for SSDAB, Ofcom has yet to start round 2 and have stated that they will review the process and timetable before they even start round 3. From conversations we have had with Ofcom, it could be years before Bedford is given the opportunity and our audience and community are in need of a station before that time.</p>