

Key Commitments change request form

Community radio station name:	Alive Radio
Licence number:	CR000126BA/5
Licensee (company name):	Alive Community Radio (SCIO)
Contact name:	Adrian Leslie
Date of request:	04/04/2023

Details of requested change(s) to Key Commitments

A community radio operator may apply to Ofcom to have the station's Key Commitments amended.

Please complete the table overleaf by including your current Commitment in the left hand column and your proposed revised Commitment in the centre column. In the right hand column please give a brief explanation as to why you wish to make each change.

We also require you to complete a second table which asks you to explain your proposed changes with reference to the statutory framework.

If you do not provide an explanation for your proposed changes and a completed comparison table, Ofcom cannot consider a Key Commitments change.

Please complete this form and return it to: broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk

Existing Commitment (as in your published Key Commitments) Please only include one commitment change per row, and add more rows as necessary into the table.	Proposed revised/new Key Commitment	Reason for proposed change
<p>The service provides original output for a minimum of eight hours per day.</p>	<p>The service provides original output for a minimum of 56 hours per week.</p>	<p>We would like to move from a daily minimum, to a weekly minimum.</p> <p>This change would better reflect the current availability of volunteers and resources. Proposed changes would enable us to ensure our weekly commitment was met.</p> <p>The impacts of the pandemic and cost of living crisis are now being felt, whilst able to maintain core volunteer numbers, the amount of time they can dedicate is lower. Many of our presenters are now working more, meaning they are unable to provide time they would have previously and are unable to offer the support they previously did.</p> <p>The proposed changes would reflect the challenges our community volunteers are experiencing.</p> <p>If approved the changes would allow our key commitments to be met and would</p>

		allow us to focus on attracting new presenters, supporting them through training and then allow us to deliver in all areas of our original output.

Statutory requirements

Under section 106(1A)(a)-(f) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as amended and modified) Ofcom must be satisfied that your proposed changes **meet at least one of the criteria referred to below**.

Please indicate which of these criteria you believe your proposed changes satisfy by deleting YES or NO as applicable and provide an explanation for why you consider a particular criterion is met in the relevant box. You should note that even if Ofcom is of the opinion that your explanation of your proposed changes meets one or more of these criteria, there may still be reasons why Ofcom is unable to consent to the change. When explaining your proposed changes, it is not enough to state that you believe one of the criteria is met. You must also demonstrate *why* you consider that at least one of these criteria is met.

In particular, if Ofcom is not satisfied that the changes would not substantially alter the character of the service (criterion (a) below), Ofcom cannot consent to the change without consulting on your proposals. If this is the case, we will contact you to confirm that you are happy for us to consult on your proposed changes, and whether you wish to make any changes to your request in light of the need to make it public.

As part of our consideration of your request to make changes to your Key Commitments, we require applicants to provide an explanation for **at least one** of the criteria below.

(a) In your judgement would the proposed changes substantially alter the character of the service?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No, the character of service would remain unchanged. The proposed change would allow greater flexibility in scheduling of original content. Programming could be delivered based on availability of volunteers, rather than trying to reach daily minimum.	
(b) Do you consider that the proposed changes would narrow the range of programmes available by way of relevant independent radio services to persons comprising the relevant community?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No, we do not believe that these changes would reduce the variety of programmes available, if anything we believe this this would strengthen the content available. The station is working hard with new areas of the community - churches, local newspapers groups, music festivals, schools and community groups to try and deliver increased partnerships delivering stronger local content. These changes would enable the station to deliver this content and meet key commitments	

<p>(c) Do you believe that there is evidence that, amongst persons comprising that community, there is a significant demand for, or significant support for, the changes that you have proposed?</p>	<p>YES/NO (Please explain why below)</p>
<p>Not Applicable -</p> <p>We believe the proposed changes would not be noticeable to the audience.</p> <p>Our range of original output would remain strong and diverse with the belief that we can use this change to allow us to continue working with new stakeholders and groups to produce new and exciting content for the community.</p> <p>The station will continue to broadcast 24 hours per day, offering additional airings to some specialist shows.</p> <p>This request is for an amendment to our minimum delivery, with the station looking to exceed this and, as such, over deliver.</p>	
<p>(d) Do you consider that your proposed changes would be prejudicial to the access by members of that community to the facilities used for the provision of the service and for training in the use of those facilities?</p>	<p>YES/NO (Please explain why below)</p>
<p>No, as above, the proposed changes would enable us to recruit and train more volunteers - increase community involvement and increase community access.</p> <p>The proposed changes would allow us to create stronger content that is of interest to our local audience.</p>	
<p>(e) Do you consider that the proposed changes would be prejudicial to the delivery of social gain resulting from the provision of the service provided under your licence?</p>	<p>YES/NO (Please explain why below)</p>
<p>No, there is no proposed change to the character of service or social gain activity.</p>	

Please set out below any additional information and/or evidence you wish to provide in support of your proposed changes.

In particular, you may wish to outline how you think your proposed change(s) fit(s) within Ofcom’s [published guidance on changes to Key Commitments](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/31913/kc-changes-guidance.pdf) (https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/31913/kc-changes-guidance.pdf).

This request is in keeping with Section 3.4, outlined above.

Data Protection

We require the information requested in this form in order to carry out our licensing duties under the Broadcasting Act 1990, Broadcasting Act 1996 and Communications Act 2003. Please see Ofcom's [General Privacy Statement](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/foi-dp/general-privacy-statement) (https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/foi-dp/general-privacy-statement) for further information about how Ofcom handles your personal information and your corresponding rights.

Amended May 2018

Ofcom notes on the request

The request was AGREED, because Ofcom was satisfied in relation to Section 106(1A)(a) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as modified by the Community Radio Order 2004, and further modified by the Community Radio (Amendment) Orders 2010 and 2015) i.e. that the change would not substantially alter the character of the service, and for the policy reasons given below.

The licensee is requesting to convert its daily requirement for the provision of original output to a weekly commitment. This change will allow the licensee greater flexibility in delivering the service, at a time when they are experiencing lower hours of volunteer input. The change will allow them to place more focus on the training of new volunteers and presenters to ensure the sustainability of the service on an ongoing basis. Ofcom is satisfied that this change will not substantially alter the character of the programme service delivered by Alive Community Radio, and that the licensee will continue to be able to deliver its on-air programme service. The change will also not affect the delivery of the station's off-air social gain commitments, and may in fact lead to a slight increase in the amount of resources devoted to the recruitment and training of new volunteers and presenters.

In terms of our policy criteria, we are satisfied that the change will not affect the station's ability to meet the community radio 'characteristics of service' set out in the legislation, and for the reasons set out above, we judge the extent of the impact of the change on the character of service to be negligible. We therefore decided to exercise our discretion to approve the change.

April 2023