

Key Commitments change request form

Community radio station name:	Hot Radio
Licence number:	CR000120
Licensee (company name):	Dorset Community Radio Ltd
Contact name:	Kevin Scott
Date of request:	15-12-23

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
Description of character of service Hot Radio is for the people of Poole. It promotes a better understanding of Poole across the community and strengthens links between all groups of local people. The station provides a forum for debate on issues which affect Poole and its residents. Its programming includes local news and information, and a diverse range of specialist music programmes.		
Music. The main types of music broadcast over the course of each week are: pop music during daytime and specialist music programmes during evenings and weekends.		
Speech. The main types of speech output broadcast over the course of each week are: news bulletins, discussions, public service announcements and local information.	Speech. The main types of speech output broadcast over the course of each week are: local news, discussions, public service announcements and local information.	Live presenters during broadcasts pick positive local news stories as show content. Rather than specific bulletins.

<p>The service provides original output1 for a minimum of six hours per day during weekdays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The service provides locally-produced output2 for a minimum of 13 hours per day. <p>The studio is located within the licensed coverage area.</p> <p>The service provides a range of community benefits (social gain objectives mandated by statute) for the target community, both on-air and off-air, and in doing so, achieves the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion, • <p>the provision (whether by means of programmes included in the service or otherwise) of education or training to individuals not employed by the person providing the service, and •</p> <p>the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of links within it. Members of the target community contribute to the operation and management of the service. The service has mechanisms in place to ensure it is accountable to its target community</p>		
---	--	--

Statutory requirements

Under section 106(1A)(a)-(f) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as amended and modified¹) 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.² 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?	NO (Please explain why below)
No This will stay the same	
(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?	NO (Please explain why below)
No This will stay the same	
(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?	YES(Please explain why below)
Yes	
(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?	NO (Please explain why below)

¹ As amended by sections 312 and 313 of the Communications Act 2003 and modified by the Community Radio Order 2004.

² Ofcom may approve a change under any of criteria (b), (c), (d) and (e) without consultation, or after a consultation of less than 28 days, if Ofcom considers that to hold a consultation at all, or for 28 days or more, would result in a delay that would be likely to prejudice the interests of the licensee. Ofcom may also remove for the purposes of consultation any confidential information submitted by the licensee.

No This will stay the same	
(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?	NO (Please explain why below)
No This will stay the same.	

<p>Please set out below any additional information and/or evidence you wish to provide in support of your proposed changes.</p> <p>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).</p>
<p>Having spoken to our volunteers, members of the community and a recent survey, and they would rather hear positive relevant local news delivered by local people, than, negative national or international news bulletins.</p>

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 has requested to change one of the aspects of its speech requirements, such that it will no longer be required to broadcast news bulletins as part of its service. However, the Licensee has instead proposed to include local news within its broader speech requirements. We expect that the result of this request would mean that the licensee no longer broadcasts scheduled news bulletins, but includes local news as part of its overall presentation, for example by presenters discussing local news stories within the context of a show. We believe that the provision of local news and information is an important function of community radio, and we are satisfied that the requirements for the licensee to broadcast local news and local information as part of its speech output will meet this objective, even in the absence of scheduled news bulletins.

We have considered this request under our policy criteria, and consider that there are no policy reasons to refuse the request. We are satisfied that the Licensee will continue to provide a service which is consistent with the characteristics of a community radio service, and will continue to serve its target community with relevant local news and information, which will help it to deliver its social gain requirements. We have therefore decided to use our discretion to approve this request.

May 2024