

Key Commitments change request form

Community radio station name:	RWSfm 103.3
Licence number:	189
Licensee (company name):	Radio West Suffolk Limited
Contact name:	Julie MacLeod
Date of request:	20 Sept 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.

<p>Please complete this form and return it to: broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk Existing Commitment (as in your published Key Commitments)</p> <p>Please only include one commitment change per row, and add more rows as necessary into the table.</p>	<p>Proposed revised/new Key Commitment</p>	<p>Reason for proposed change</p>
<p>RWS FM is a service for the people of Bury St Edmunds. It broadcasts programmes by the community, for the community. The station provides programming relevant to the people living in the area, such as programmes addressing the social issues arising in the town.</p>	<p>RWS FM is a service for the people of Bury St Edmunds and surrounding areas of West Suffolk. It broadcasts programmes by the community, for the community. The station provides programming relevant to the people living in the area, Including highlighting social issues arising in our catchment area via it's local news bulletins</p>	<p>Increase in output of power.</p>
<p>The service provides original output1 for a minimum of seven hours per day.</p>	<p>The service provides original output1 for a minimum of forty nine hours per week.</p>	<p>More manageable on a weekly basis. Reflects the duty of care towards personel post Covid.</p>
<p>The service provides locally-produced output2 for a minimum of 13 hours per day.</p>	<p>This service provides locally produced output2 of a min 60 hours of programming weekly, to include voice-tracked or repeat broadcasts.</p>	<p>More manageable on a weekly basis. Reflects the duty of care towards personel post Covid</p>

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. (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 the station would not alter.	
a. (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. The range of programming would not decrease, it could potentially encourage others to volunteer in a less intense role.	
a. (c) Do you believe that there is evidence that, amongst persons comprising that community, there	YES/NO

is a significant demand for, or significant support for, the changes that you have proposed?	(Please explain why below)
Yes. There will be no changes to our quality or style, which has become popular since launching 2010.	
a. (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?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No. There are not changes request that would effect this.	
a. (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?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No. Our commitment to delivery of social gain would not be effected by these minor changes that are requested.	

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).

We believe that the changes requested are bringing the station up to date with the pressures of our current volunteers commitments and lifestyle.

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 changes would not substantially alter the character of the service, and for the policy reasons given below.

The Licensee is requesting alterations to its character of service to allow it to broadcast to a wider target area of Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding areas. This follows a power increase, approved by Ofcom, which has expanded the coverage area of the station. The proposed changes to the character of service will reflect this change, and require the station to broadcast about social issues from throughout its coverage area in local news bulletins. Ofcom is satisfied that this change will not substantially alter the character of service, as the service will continue to broadcast information and entertainment for the local community in and around Bury St Edmunds. We do not expect that this change will substantially change the content broadcast to audiences, but will instead expand the provision of local news and coverage of local events.

The Licensee is requesting to change its requirements for the provision of both original and locally-produced output. The Licensee is seeking to convert its original output requirement from a daily to a weekly total. Ofcom is satisfied to approve requests of this nature, as we recognise that this will not change the service provided to listeners, but will instead provide the station with additional flexibility in the management of its resources.

With regard to its locally-produced output requirement, the Licensee is seeking to move from a daily to a weekly requirement but also reduce its overall requirement, from an equivalent of 91 hours per week to 60 hours per week, a reduction of roughly 34%. We recognise that this is a relatively large reduction in locally-produced output, but we do not believe this will substantially alter the overall character of the service. Instead, this will allow the station greater flexibility, which we understand is important to stations following changes to volunteer resource availability. The Licensee has included in its request that its locally-produced output will include pre-recorded and voice-tracked content – this will not be specifically included in the station's Key Commitments, simply because this type of content always counts towards locally-produced output requirements, where it is also locally-produced.

In terms of our policy criteria, Ofcom is satisfied that the changes will not affect the station's ability to meet the community radio 'characteristics of service' set out in the legislation. We therefore decided to exercise our discretion to approve these changes.

November 2023