

Key Commitments change request form

Community radio station name:	Susy Radio
Licence number:	CR000223
Licensee (company name):	Susy Radio Ltd
Contact name:	Geoff Pryke
Date of request:	15 September 2024

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
The service provides original output for a minimum average of 12 hours per day.	The service provides original output for a minimum average of 70 hours per week	Maintaining 12 hours per day has been a challenge and while we always maintained this it has meant we have been more concerned with hitting the target than the editorial content. Many days a week, we already exceed the required output and hit 14/15 hours, . We have asked for a reduction of 14 hours over the week as we have lost a number of volunteers since the pandemic and we have less cover for sickness and other short notice reasons for absence. The number requested will not materially change the nature of the service and will allow us to continue to produce high quality radio for our service area. In fact, this was informally discussed in a phone call with Ofcom some months ago and they recommended we move to a weekly average.

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?	YES/NO (Please explain why below)
No. The service would remain the same and it is a precaution against volunteer absence and would also allow us to concentrate more on producing even higher quality programmes even though the number of original hours per week will be slightly lower,	
(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 will not be reducing the range of programmes available. We have in fact recently added to our range with a new country music show.	
(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/NO (Please explain why below)
Yes. Though this is a hard question to answer, I believe our community would benefit from the fact we would have more time to create higher quality output despite the marginal potential loss in the worst-case scenario of 20% of original hours.	

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.

(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. The amount of original output is not in any way linked to training or access. And in fact, it would give the team more time to train new volunteers and update the skillset of existing volunteers.	
(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. As mentioned above, the marginal reduction in hours would not have any effect on this.	

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 feel that the proposed change represents a fairer way of consideration of original output. Rather than having to hit the 12 hours per day, hitting an average number of 70 hours weekly means we could plan some days to have more original hours and it would deal with short notice presenter absence and also mean that presenters could be accommodated more in terms of their available time.

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.

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 change its original output requirement from a daily to a weekly requirement. In doing so, it is also requesting a reduction in the amount of original output it is required to broadcast, from an equivalent of 84 hours per week to a new total of 70 hours per week, which represents a reduction of approximately 17%. The Licensee has requested this change to provide it with more flexibility in managing its volunteer resources and programming schedule.

We are generally happy to agree to changes where a licensee is requesting to move from a daily to a weekly output requirement, as we recognise that this provides licensees with more flexibility, which can be especially important in volunteer-resourced organisations. In this case the reduction requested is moderate, and as such, we do not believe this to be a significant reduction that would result in a substantial change to the overall character of the service delivered to listeners.

We have considered this request under our policy criteria and consider that there are no policy reasons to refuse this request. We are satisfied that the licensee will be able to continue to provide a service for its target community, and that this change will not prevent the service from meeting the characteristics of a community radio service or reduce the amount of social gain provided to listeners. We have therefore decided to exercise our discretion to approve the change.

October 2024