

# Community Digital Sound Programme (C-DSP) licence

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## Application form – Part A (public)

Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA)

Proposed service name:

Afghan Radio

Radio multiplex service(s) on which the proposed C-DSP service is to be provided (note this must be a small-scale multiplex area either previously advertised or currently being advertised by Ofcom as shown in the multiplex licence advertisement)

West London

Public contact details (i.e. Contact name and/or company name, company address, telephone number(s) and email):

Afghanistan and Central Asian Association, Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS

02085720300, 07769406432

[darius@afghanistan-central-asian.org.uk](mailto:darius@afghanistan-central-asian.org.uk)

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# 1. Overview

You should complete this form if you are applying for a community digital sound programme licence (“C-DSP”). You can find further information about C-DSP services in the [guidance notes for licensees and applicants](#).

This application form is divided into two parts – **Part A** (which we will publish on our website) and **Part B** (which will be kept confidential). This document constitutes Part A; [Part B of the application form](#) is available on our website.

If you encounter any issues using these forms, please contact [broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk).

## The purpose of this form

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You should complete this form if you are applying for a Community Digital Sound Programme (C-DSP) licence.

A digital sound programme service intended for broadcast by means of a local or small-scale radio multiplex service requires either a C-DSP licence or a local DSP licence. Ofcom’s published guidance notes set out some of the key issues that potential applicants need to consider in deciding which type of licence is suitable for them. In summary, C-DSP services are not run for financial gain and are required to provide social gain. C-DSP licences therefore include strict conditions to ensure that happens, and provide less flexibility than a local DSP licence. However, they do provide access to capacity that small-scale radio multiplex service providers are required to reserve solely for C-DSP services.

A C-DSP licence will be required even if the same programme service is also provided on any other platforms (e.g. FM, satellite), as separate licences are required for those.

As noted above, small-scale radio multiplex services will have reserved capacity for C-DSP services. Issue of a C-DSP licence does not, however, guarantee carriage on a small-scale (or local) radio multiplex service. That is a matter for agreement between the C-DSP licensee and the multiplex service provider, and there may be more C-DSP licences issued in a locality than there are reserved slots on the small-scale radio multiplex service. Note that a C-DSP service does not necessarily have to broadcast using reserved capacity. It can use unreserved capacity on a small-scale radio multiplex service or capacity on a local radio multiplex service, again subject to agreement with the multiplex service provider.

An application for a C-DSP licence will be accepted only once Ofcom has advertised the licence for the small-scale radio multiplex service upon which the proposed C-DSP service is intended to be provided. There is no closing-date by which an application for a C-DSP licence must be submitted (i.e. it can be submitted at any time after the licence for the relevant small-scale radio multiplex licence has been advertised).

You can find further information about how to determine if a service requires a C-DSP licence in Section 2 of the [guidance notes for applicants and licensees](#).

## Provision of information

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Ofcom requires complete and accurate information to assess applications. This is so that we can assess your application against statutory criteria, consider whether those involved in the body applying for a licence are 'fit and proper' to hold a licence, and determine whether their involvement with other organisations disqualifies them from participation in a licence.

It is an offence under the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended) to provide false information or withhold relevant information during the application process, and may be grounds for revocation of a licence subsequently granted.

## Publication of information about applications and licensed services

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Information provided in **Part A** of the application form will typically be published by Ofcom in our Monthly Radio Update publication the month following the submission of your application. This may take longer if the application is received late in the month. Information provided in **Part B** will not be published.

In submitting this application you agree that, should a licence be granted, Ofcom may publish contact details for the licensee (specified in Section 2 of Part B of the application form), which may include personal data, on the Ofcom website and/or in other relevant publications. If you have any questions about the information that we publish, or there are any changes to this information, you should contact the Broadcast Licensing team by email ([broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk)).

Ofcom considers issued C-DSP licences to be public documents and copies of licences will be made available to third parties on request albeit, other than the Key Commitments which are tailored to the service, C-DSP licences are standard form documents. A brief description of the licensed service will be published on the Ofcom website, along with the Key Commitments which form part of the licence.

Ofcom publishes a [monthly radio licensing update](#) which lists new services licensed, new applications, licences revoked, licence transfers, and changes to licensed services during the past month.

## Data protection

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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](#) for further information about how Ofcom handles your personal information and your corresponding rights.

## Keeping up to date with broadcasting matters

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We strongly recommend that the appropriate person at the applicant body signs up to receive Ofcom's regular email updates on broadcasting matters including notification when the Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin is published.

To sign up to receive these communications, you must visit the [email updates](#) area of our website and select 'Broadcasting.'

## 2. Applicant's details

### About this section

In this section we are asking you for details about the applicant company. This must be a body corporate which is not profit distributing.

In the first part of this section, we are asking for basic details about the applicant. These include company registration number and contact information.

In the second part of this section we are asking for details of the applicant's officers (directors or, in the case of LLPs, designated members), its shareholders and participants. Where applicable, we are also asking for details of the officers of the applicant's parent and associated companies or LLPs etc.

If any of the individuals named in your responses are known by more than one name/version of their name, all names must be provided.

Certain persons are disqualified from holding a C-DSP licence. This section asks the questions which enable us to consider this for those types of disqualification which apply specifically to bodies corporate. It also asks questions which are relevant to our assessment of the applicant's fitness and properness to hold a C-DSP licence.

Before completing this section of the form, you should read [Ofcom's guidance on the definition of 'control' of media companies](#). Throughout this section, "control" has the meaning it is given in Part I of Schedule 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1990.

The response boxes and tables should be expanded or repeated where necessary, or provided in a separate annex.

'Officerships' in this section refers to: directorships of bodies corporate, designated memberships of LLPs, or membership of a governing body of an unincorporated association (including partnerships).

### Applicant information and contact details

2.1 Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA)

2.2 Company registration number stated on Companies House:

Charity Number: 1096908

2.3 For UK registered companies, the address of the applicant's registered office stated on Companies House.

For non-UK registered companies, the principal office address:

Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS

- 2.4 If a UK registered company, is the current Memorandum and Articles of Association document available on the Companies House website?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If no, please submit the up to date document and indicate you have done so in the checklist in Section 4 of Part B.

- 2.5 Contact details of the individual duly authorised by the applicant for the purposes of making this application. This individual should be the company secretary, a director or (if an LLP) designated member.

(If you are an agent completing the form on behalf of the applicant please do not enter your details here – see paragraph 2.25 of the [guidance notes](#)).

Full name	Darius Nasimi
Job title	Head of Funding and Partnerships
Address	2 Belgrave Road, Hounslow, TW4 7BY
Telephone	07380856052, 07769406432
Mobile	07380856052, 07769406432
Email	<a href="mailto:darius@afghanistan-central-asian.org.uk">darius@afghanistan-central-asian.org.uk</a>

- 2.6 If the proposed Licensed Service has/will have a website, please provide the website address below.

[www.acaa.org.uk](http://www.acaa.org.uk)

- 2.7 How will the service be financed? If the applicant is receiving, or is likely to receive, any form of funding and/or financial assistance to establish and maintain the service, please provide details of who is providing that funding/financial assistance and the extent of it.

If you are receiving funding from, or on behalf of, a source that could be considered a political organisation or a religious body, you must set out the nature of that organisation here.

The *Afghan Radio* project will be financed through a combination of grants and charitable funding applications submitted to British grant-making trusts, alongside revenue generated from paid advertising and sponsorship opportunities.

Initial setup and launch costs for the radio station will be covered using existing charitable funding already secured by the organisation, which includes core funding, generous donations by members of the public, and some flexibility funding. This blended funding approach will ensure both the successful establishment of the station and its long-term sustainability.

## Ownership and control of the company which will hold the licence

### Details of officers, participants and shareholders of the applicant

2.8 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to provide the following details for each director or designated member of the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Full name of individual	Correspondence address <sup>1</sup>	Country of residence	Other officerships held (and nature of the business concerned)	Other employment
Gulalai Nuristani	Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS	England		
Fariba Shahmohammadi	Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS	England		
Nooruddin Ansari	Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS	England		
Noorzia Aimaq	Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS	England		

2.9 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, amounting to more than 5% in the applicant ("participants"). If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

Full name of >5% participant (existing and pro-posed)	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
Afghanistan and Central Asian Association	N/A	N/A	N/A	100

<sup>1</sup> This should be the same address as is held and published by Companies House.



Comments				
None.				

- 2.10 Complete the following table, expanding if necessary, to identify any entities with which the applicant is affiliated. By affiliated, we mean companies that are related through ownership, either with one company being a minority shareholder in the other, or through multiple companies being owned by a third party.

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond "N/A" in the table.)

Full name of the entity	Address
N/A	N/A

- 2.11 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list any bodies corporate which are controlled by the applicant, and their affiliates:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond "N/A" in the table.)

Full name of the entity	Address	Affiliates
N/A	N/A	N/A

#### Details of persons who control the applicant

- 2.12 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all persons who control the applicant, together with their affiliates. If any persons or bodies control the applicant jointly because they act together in concert (e.g. because of a shareholder's agreement), each such person must be identified here:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond "N/A" in the table.)

Full name of individual or body	Address	Affiliates
Gulalai Nuristani (Trustee)	Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS	-
Fariba Shahmohammadi (Trustee)	Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS	-
Nooruddin Ansari (Trustee)	Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS	-

Noorzia Aimaq (Trustee)	Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS	-
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- 2.13 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all officerships in other bodies that are held by any individual listed in response to question 2.12, and any affiliates of those bodies. An “officership” refers to being a director of a body corporate, designated member of a limited liability partnership, or member of the governing body of an unincorporated association:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table)

Full name of individual	Name of body in which officership held	Affiliates of that body
Gulalai Nuristani (Trustee)	Afghanistan and Central Asian Association	N/A
Fariba Shahmohammadi (Trustee)	Afghanistan and Central Asian Association	N/A
Nooruddin Ansari (Trustee)	Afghanistan and Central Asian Association	N/A
Noorzia Aimaq (Trustee)	Afghanistan and Central Asian Association	N/A

- 2.14 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies corporate which are controlled by any body corporate listed in response to question 2.12, and their affiliates:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond "N/A" in the table)

Full name of body corporate listed in 2.11	Body corporate controlled	Affiliates of body corporate controlled
Board of Trustees	Afghanistan and Central Asian Association	N/A

- 2.15 In relation to each body corporate identified in response to question 2.12, complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, amounting to more than 5% in the body corporate concerned (i.e. "participants"). You may, but are not required to, exclude from this table any bodies listed in response to question 2.12. If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond "N/A" in the table)

Name of body corporate identified in response to question 2.11				
Full name of >5% participant	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
N/A				
Comments				

None.

### Involvement of the applicant in specified activities

- 2.16 Please state below whether the applicant, or any of the directors, shareholders or other individuals named above, including their associates (i.e. directors of their associates and other group companies), is, or is involved in, any of the below, and the extent of that interest.

Activity/involvement	Yes / No	Please state who is involved; the name of the body/individual/agency they are involved with; and the extent of their involvement
a) A local authority	No	
b) A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature, or which is affiliated to such a body	No	
c) A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a religious nature; <sup>2</sup>	No	
d) An individual who is an officer of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	
e) A body corporate which is an associate (as defined in paragraphs 1(1) and 1(1A) of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	
f) An advertising agency or an associate of an advertising agency	No	

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to Sections 3 to 5 of [Ofcom's religious guidance note](#) for details on how we determine the eligibility of religious bodies to hold certain broadcasting licences.

### Details of applications, licences and sanctions

2.17 Is the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence) a current licensee of Ofcom?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the licence details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of multiplex
N/A	N/A

2.18 Has the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence) held an Ofcom broadcasting licence before?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
N/A	N/A

2.19 Has anyone involved in the proposed service held an Ofcom broadcasting licence or been involved in an Ofcom-licensed broadcast service before?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the details expanding the table if necessary:

Dates licence was held or dates of involvement	Licence number (if known)	Name of service or multiplex
N/A	N/A	N/A

2.20 Does the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence) control an existing Ofcom licensee?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the licence details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
N/A	N/A

2.21 Is the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence) controlled by an existing licensee or by any person who is connected (within the meaning of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) with an existing licensee (i.e. as a “participant”)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the following information, expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
N/A	N/A

2.22 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant - made any other application to Ofcom (or its predecessor broadcast regulators – the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority) for any licence which has since been surrendered by the licensee or revoked by Ofcom (or one of its predecessor regulators)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the following information, expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
N/A	N/A

- 2.23 Is the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant - subject to any current or pending investigation by any statutory regulatory or government body in the United Kingdom or abroad in respect of any broadcast-related matter?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the following details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number (or equivalent)	Name of service or multiplex	Details of the investigation
N/A	N/A	N/A

- 2.24 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been subject to a statutory sanction for contravening a condition of a broadcasting licence in the UK or any other jurisdiction?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the following details relating to each sanction expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number (or equivalent)	Name of service or multiplex	Nature of the breach	Sanction imposed	Date sanction imposed
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- 2.25 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been convicted of an unlicensed broadcasting offence?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide the following details:

Full name	Date of conviction/action (dd/mm/yy)	Penalty
N/A	N/A	N/A

- 2.26 Please provide any further information you hold, relating to the past conduct of the applicant or those individuals listed, in regulatory matters or in matters going to honesty and/or compliance, which may be relevant to Ofcom's consideration of whether or not the applicant is fit and proper to hold a broadcast licence. If the applicant or the form signatory fails without reasonable excuse at this point to declare any matter of which Ofcom subsequently becomes aware, and which we do consider to be relevant to the applicant's eligibility to hold a licence, we will take it into account in determining the question of whether the applicant/licensee remains fit and proper to hold a licence.

If you have no information to provide, please respond "N/A".

N/A





# 3. The proposed service

## About this section

This section asks you to describe your proposed service, including the Key Commitments you propose to include in your licence. This includes your service name, multiplex name and character of service, in addition to standard commitments that all C-DSP licensees need to abide by. Holders of an existing analogue community radio licence to be a simul-cast on the proposed C-DSP service can replicate the existing analogue key commitments as it is our expectation that the key commitments for simulcast services are to be in keeping with one another. If a licence is granted, the information you provide in this section will be used to form the basis of the annex to your licence. You will only be authorised to broadcast what is detailed in the annex of the licence.

In this section, you will also need to set out how your service will provide social gain, community participation and how you will be accountable to the target community. This is in line with statutory requirements for the granting of C-DSP licences. **The information provided in this section is also the basis on which decisions are made.**

If you hold, or intend to hold, multiple C-DSP licences, the answers given in this section and the intended delivery of your Key Commitments must apply to the locality in which your proposed service will broadcast (as set out in the Draft Key Commitments in this application form).

## Your proposed service and target community

3.1 What is the proposed service name?

The Afghan Radio

3.2 On which radio multiplex service do you intend to broadcast? If the relevant radio multiplex licence has not yet been awarded, please state the name of the area that the multiplex service is intended to cover, as defined in the multiplex licence advertisement.

West London

3.3 Where is your proposed studio located? Please note that this must be located within the coverage area of the small-scale radio multiplex service identified in answer to 3.2 (or the advertised area for a small-scale radio multiplex service that has not yet been awarded).<sup>3</sup>

Afghanistan and Central Asian Association, Unit 9 Griffin Centre, Staines Road, Feltham, TW14 0HS

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<sup>3</sup> If you propose to provide your service on a local, rather than a small-scale, radio multiplex service, there is no requirement for your studio to be located within the licensed area of that local radio multiplex service.

- 3.4 If the proposed service is a simulcast or corresponding service of an existing licensed radio service, please list that below and provide the licence number.

N/A

- 3.5 What is the target community of the service? Please include the geographical area that you wish to serve in addition to the interests or characteristics that define your target community. The area you wish to serve must be geographically located within the coverage area of the radio multiplex service on which you intend to broadcast. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Geographically, our service will operate within the coverage area of the West London SSDAB multiplex. Our primary target community is Afghan and Central Asian diaspora living in West London, particularly those in boroughs such as Ealing, Hounslow, Brent, and Hillingdon, where settlement patterns show the highest concentration of Afghan refugees and migrants. This community in West London now numbers over 30,000 people, many of whom are recent arrivals facing significant challenges including language barriers, social isolation, and navigating UK systems and services.

The service will focus on delivering culturally relevant, linguistically accessible content that supports community integration, celebrates heritage, and strengthens the sense of belonging. Programming will be broadcast in English alongside Farsi, Dari, and Pashto to ensure it reaches those most in need, especially individuals with limited English proficiency.

While Afghan and Central Asian culture will be at the heart of the station, our target audience extends beyond this core group. Our programming will also appeal to the wider West London population with an interest in Persian, Central Asian, and refugee cultures. The success of our annual Afghan and Central Asian Summer Festival, attracting over 5,000 attendees from diverse backgrounds across London and beyond, demonstrates this broad appeal.

In addition to serving Afghan and Central Asian residents, we will dedicate time and resources to amplifying the voices and experiences of other ethnic minority groups in West London. The station will provide a platform for underrepresented communities to share their music, stories, and perspectives, fostering cross-cultural understanding and dialogue.

- 3.6 How will you ensure that your proposed C-DSP service is run on a not-for-profit basis? Please give details of specific measures or arrangements in place to ensure this, and how any profit

will be wholly and exclusively used for securing or improving the future provision of the service, or for the delivery of social gain. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

The Afghanistan and Central Asian Association is a charity headquartered in West London. We are legally bound to operate on a not-for-profit basis. Our governing documents explicitly state that all income must be applied solely towards the organisation's charitable purposes, with no distribution of profit to members, trustees, or staff.

The proposed C-DSP service will be managed as an extension of our existing charitable activities. Financial oversight will be conducted in line with our established governance framework, which includes:

- Oversight from our Board of Trustees, 100% of whom have lived experience as refugees or migrants and will have ultimate responsibility for ensuring compliance with charity law, Ofcom requirements, and our not-for-profit commitments.
- All financial activity, including that related to the radio station, to be recorded and audited annually by an independent examiner, with accounts submitted to the Charity Commission and made publicly available.
- Restricted funds management to ensure any income generated from advertising, sponsorship, or other revenue streams will be ring-fenced for the sole purpose of sustaining and improving the station, or for other charitable activities that align with our mission and the delivery of social gain.

We will also ensure that any profit made from the radio will be wholly and exclusively reinvested into enhancing and expanding programming, including multilingual content in English, Dari, Pashto, and Farsi, improving technical infrastructure, equipment, and training for our volunteer presenters and production teams, and delivering outreach and engagement activities to ensure the service reaches isolated members of our target communities.

We will also continue to operate a transparent budgeting process, with quarterly reviews to ensure that spending directly benefits the community and supports the station's sustainability.

The involvement of community volunteers in production and decision-making will provide additional accountability, ensuring that resources are used in line with community priorities rather than commercial interests.

By embedding the radio station within our existing charitable structure, governed by clear accountability mechanisms and a commitment to transparency, we can guarantee that the service will remain not-for-profit and focused entirely on delivering social gain for the Afghan, Central Asian, and wider West London communities.

## Social gain

- 3.7 What community benefits will your service bring to your target community(ies) and, if applicable, the general public. Please include summaries of evidence to support your answer, including details about other organisations you intend to work with. **Answer in fewer than 500 words.** Please do not provide names of individuals in your answer.

Our service will deliver tangible community benefits by providing a dedicated platform for Afghan, Central Asian, and other ethnic minority communities in West London to receive information, celebrate heritage, and participate fully in civic life. Broadcasting in English, Dari, Pashto, and Farsi will ensure accessibility for both established residents and recent arrivals, many of whom face language barriers and limited access to culturally relevant media.

The radio station will be started by, and owned by, the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA), a long-established, award-winning charity embedded within the communities it serves. While ACAA will safeguard the station's mission, we will work in regular collaboration with community organisations, arts groups, policymakers, and youth networks to ensure our programming is representative, impactful, and relevant.

Key community benefits will include:

- Cultural connection and pride: We will partner with organisations such as Tara Theatre, Counterpoints Arts, Create London, Watermans Arts Centre, and many others to publicise their cultural programmes, exhibitions, and performances. Broadcasting these events as news will help our communities discover and attend cultural opportunities they might otherwise miss, fostering both belonging and cross-cultural exchange.
- Access to information and services: Through collaborations with West London Welcome, Refugee Council, Ealing CVS, and others, we will share service updates and information.
- Civic participation and policy engagement: We will work with MPs, London Assembly Members, and think tanks such as the Runnymede Trust and British Future to inform our audiences about dialogues, roundtables, and consultations. By publicising these opportunities, we will enable our beneficiaries to participate in shaping decisions that affect their lives.
- Youth engagement: Partnering with groups like Hillingdon Refugee Support Group and Migrants Organise, we will develop youth-led segments, offering training in radio production, journalism, and interviewing skills. This will amplify young voices, promote leadership, and create pathways into media careers.
- Social cohesion: By featuring stories, debates, and events from across West London's diverse communities, we will encourage intercultural understanding, break down stereotypes, and strengthen the social fabric.

Our April 2025 consultations with Afghan and Central Asian residents in Ealing, Hounslow, Brent, and Hillingdon revealed that many feel invisible in mainstream media. Afghan refugees in particular rely on informal networks for information,

increasing the risk of misinformation. The popularity of our Afghan and Central Asian Summer Festival—drawing over 5,000 attendees from diverse backgrounds—demonstrates strong demand for cross-cultural programming.

We will use the station as a hub where local organisations can publicise their services, events, and campaigns directly to our audience. Cultural partners will have a platform to promote festivals, performances, and exhibitions. Advocacy partners will be able to highlight opportunities for civic action. Youth and grassroots groups will have airtime to share initiatives, recruit volunteers, and celebrate achievements. By embedding the radio station in West London’s community infrastructure and opening our platform to partners across sectors, we will not only serve our own community but also create a bridge to the wider public—fostering understanding, participation, and shared cultural life.

- 3.8 Please summarise how your service will facilitate discussion and the expression of opinion. **Answer in fewer than 200 words.**

Our service will move beyond broadcasting as a one-way channel, creating an interactive civic space where our communities can speak, question, and be heard. Too often, Afghan and Central Asian voices are absent from public debates, with conversations about us happening without us. We will reverse that dynamic.

Phone-ins will allow listeners to challenge ideas, share experiences, and contribute to real-time discussions. Regular talk shows will feature local residents, youth leaders, and sector experts on issues such as housing, employment, health, and education—grounding policy debates in lived reality.

We will also provide space for critical reflection on events back home in Afghanistan and the Central Asian region, offering context and counter-narratives to mainstream portrayals. By inviting community members into the studio, we will humanise these discussions, dismantling the distance between “audience” and “content-creator.” Our editorial approach will prioritise respectful disagreement, ensuring space for diverse viewpoints within and across our communities. This will not only inform but empower, transforming passive listeners into active participants in shaping the narratives that define their identities, their futures, and their place in the public conversation.

- 3.9 How will you ensure that members of your target community(ies) can gain access to the facilities used to provide your service, and receive training in using these? In particular, please set out how this will be done practically, formally and/or informally. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Access to our station will not be a privilege for a few but a right for the many whose voices have long been sidelined in mainstream media. For Afghan, Central Asian,

and other minority communities in West London, the barriers to participating in media are not just technical—they are cultural, linguistic, and systemic.

Our service will dismantle these barriers by using the ACAA community centre in Feltham as the physical hub for training and community engagement. Here, we will run structured courses on broadcasting, interviewing, and media ethics, delivered in English, Dari, Pashto, and Farsi. These will be free for our target communities. Industry professionals from other Asian radio stations in West London will join us, creating a bridge between community radio and professional practice.

We will also hold regular open house sessions where community members can see the studio in action, ask questions, and gain hands-on experience—turning curiosity into confidence. Informal learning will take place through shadowing, mentoring, and live ‘learning by doing’ opportunities, ensuring participants gain practical skills in real-time production.

We will also engage beneficiaries and service users from our existing projects and the wider networks we have cultivated over 25 years, ensuring immediate reach into communities that trust us and feel welcome in our space. This will not be a one-off intervention but graduates of our training will be actively offered ongoing presenting or production roles so the station continually reflects the diversity, lived experiences, and concerns of our community.

In doing so, we will create a platform that is not charity-driven but grounded in restitution—returning the tools of representation to the very communities we serve.

- 3.10 How will your service provide better understanding of your target community and the strengthening of links within it? **Answer in fewer than 200 words.**

Our service will challenge the invisibility of the Afghan and Central Asian community in mainstream UK media by creating a space where our voices are not only heard but valued. For decades, these communities have been spoken about rather than spoken to—often reduced to conflict headlines and cultural clichés. We aim to disrupt that narrative.

Through multilingual programming in English, Dari, Pashto, and Farsi, we will combine local news from West London with critical reporting from Afghanistan and the Central Asian region. This will keep our listeners connected to their heritage while encouraging informed, nuanced discussions about the political, social, and cultural realities shaping both home and diaspora life. For the refugee population, this is very empowering.

The station will not simply transmit information—it will foster dialogue. Phone-ins, community debates, and collaborative programmes will connect communities. We will also actively collaborate with other ethnic minority communities in West London to break down the barriers that keep migrant groups apart, creating cross-cultural solidarity.

- 3.11 Please summarise the relevant experience of the group or its members in activities related to the provision of social gain or other relevant non-broadcast areas (such as third sector, training or education). **Answer in fewer than 200 words.**

The Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) has over 25 years' experience supporting the integration of refugees, migrants, and asylum-seekers in the UK. Founded in 1999 by Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi, who arrived as a refugee with his family, ACAA was born from lived experience of the barriers to integration, and the urgent need for culturally sensitive, community-driven support. Since then, we have grown to serve people from over 65 nationalities.

Our services span education, training, and skills development—including ESOL classes, careers support, and employment advice; a Supplementary School and Youth Clubs for tutoring, enrichment, and social support; women's empowerment programmes for those often affected by domestic abuse; trauma-informed mental health workshops and referrals; legal advice clinics covering housing and welfare; family support and community advocacy; and sports, wellbeing, and recreational activities for women and children to boost physical and mental health.

Through this holistic approach, we support around 13,000 refugees each year. Our work has been nationally recognised with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, Refugee Support Service of the Year (2019), and honours for our founder including an MBE in 2023 and an Honorary Doctorate from Royal Holloway University in 2024.

## Participation

- 3.12 How do you propose to ensure that members of your target community(ies) are given opportunities to participate in the operation and management of the service? **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Our new community radio station is where the Afghan and Central Asian community meets. This means people won't just see it as "a project" but as something that truly belongs to them. We want the station to be run by the community, not just for it. That's why we'll offer hands-on training so people can learn how to present shows, produce content, edit audio, interview guests, and even manage the running of the station. The aim is to give everyone—from young



people finding their voice to older members who want to share their experience—the skills and confidence to take part.

We'll have a steering committee made up of community members, including volunteer presenters, so the decision-making is shared. People will be able to pitch programme ideas, help shape schedules, and give feedback on what's working and what's not. This won't be a closed circle—there will be no discrimination, and we'll actively encourage participation from women, young people, and those whose voices are often overlooked.

We'll run open days where anyone can drop in, see how the station works, and get involved. In short, we're building more than a radio station. We're creating a space where our community can speak for itself, tell its own stories, and have a real say in how those stories are shared.

## Accountability

- 3.13 How will members of your target community contact your service and influence its operation? **Answer in fewer than 300 words.**

Our studio will be based right in the heart of the Afghan and Central Asian community, making the station both accessible and familiar. We will operate an open-door policy so that community members can walk in, meet the team, and speak directly with those running the station.

Once the radio is launched, we'll provide multiple channels for people to get in touch—dedicated phone lines, email, social media platforms, and direct contact through the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association's existing networks. This will ensure accessibility for everyone, from tech-savvy young people to older residents who prefer face-to-face conversation or a simple phone call.

Feedback will be actively encouraged, not just received. We'll hold regular community listening sessions and invite suggestions for programmes, topics, and guests. Our volunteer presenters and steering committee will also act as community representatives, ensuring that programming reflects the voices, interests, and concerns of our audience.

- 3.14 How will suggestions and/or criticisms from members of your target community(ies) be considered and acted upon? **Answer in fewer than 300 words.**

Suggestions and criticisms from our community will be actively welcomed through all the channels outlined in 3.13—face-to-face conversations at our community

centre, dedicated phone lines, email, social media platforms, and feedback gathered during community listening sessions. Every piece of feedback will be reviewed by the Radio Station Manager, who will assess its relevance, urgency, and potential impact.

Constructive suggestions will be discussed with the Steering Group—made up of community representatives, volunteer presenters, and charity staff—ensuring that decisions are informed by diverse perspectives and grounded in the realities of our audience.

For significant changes, we will consult more widely, for example by running quick polls on social media, holding informal focus groups, or inviting community members onto the station to share their ideas live. Criticism will be treated as an opportunity to improve, not as a setback. We will acknowledge all feedback, communicate any actions we take, and, where changes aren't possible, explain why. This open, accountable approach will ensure the station stays relevant, trusted, and genuinely community-led.

## Draft Key Commitments

Below is an example of the licence annex where the Key Commitments appear. Should a licence be awarded, the entries you provide below will form the Key Commitments section of your licence. Holders of a community radio analogue licence that is to be simulcast, or a corresponding service, are expected to provide key commitments that are in line with their existing service(s). As such, applicants may refer to the existing key commitments of the relevant simulcast or corresponding service(s) to ensure that the draft below is in line with those of the existing service(s).

Please provide entries where specified in **BOLD** below. The information you enter here should reflect your answers to Sections 3 and 4 of the Part A of your completed Application Form. This will form the basis of your Key Commitments alongside the mandatory text in italics. Do not amend the text in italics as every service is required to comply with these requirements, but the details of how each service does so do not need to be included in the Key Commitments.

### ANNEX TO LICENCE

**LICENSED SERVICE NO** tbc

Licensed Service	< <b>The Afghan Radio</b> (the on-air name of the programme service as in question 3.1 of this application)>
Service Description	<p>&lt;<b>THE AFGHAN RADIO</b>&gt; is a radio service intended to serve</p> <p>NOTE: The next 3 headings below are the components of the 'character of service'.</p> <p>&lt;<b>THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY OF WEST LONDON</b>&gt; <i>in</i></p> <p>&lt;<b>WEST LONDON</b>&gt; NOTE: this can be all, or a subset of, the area covered by the radio multiples service described in the next column&gt; (<i>"the target community"</i>) by</p> <p>&lt;The Afghan Radio provides a service that makes a positive difference to our local community and to make a focal point for the Afghan community in the local through cultural content and learning.</p> <p>The studio of the Licensed Service is located within the coverage area of the Small-Scale Radio Multiplex Service identified above (n.b. the Licensee will not be in breach of this requirement if an existing studio ceases to fall within the coverage area merely as a result of technical changes to the Small-Scale Radio Multiplex Service outside the control of the Licensee).</p> <p>The Licensed Service shall have the characteristics of a Community Digital Sound Programme Service as set out in the 2019 Order and, in so doing, shall achieve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion,</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of links within it.</li> </ul> <p>Members of the target community shall contribute to the operation and management of the service.</p> <p>The service shall have mechanisms in place to ensure it is accountable to its target community in the specific area or locality.</p>
Transmission Schedule	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Multiplex	< <b>West London, SSDAB</b> (as per the licence advert): as in question 3.2 of this application, specify if small-scale or local multiplex the radio station plans to broadcast on>

# 4. Compliance of the service

## About this section

This section asks you to describe the compliance arrangements for the proposed licensed service, i.e. the arrangements which the applicant will put in place to ensure that the content it proposes to broadcast will comply with the relevant regulatory codes and rules for programming and advertising. These include:

- The Ofcom Broadcasting Code
- The BCAP Code: the UK Code of Broadcast Advertising
- The Regulation of Premium Rate Services Order

Condition 17 of a C-DSP licence requires that you have compliance procedures in place, and this section asks that you demonstrate your ability to meet this licence condition.

Before completing this section of the form you should read Section 4 of the [C-DSP guidance notes](#), where you will also find links to the codes and rules listed above.

- 4.1 Please give details of all compliance training (including dates) the person named in response to either question 2.3 or 2.5 in Part B (i.e. the individual who holds overall responsibility for compliance of the service) has received in the relevant codes and rules (for example, those referred to in the box at the start of this section).

Darius Nasimi (Compliance Officer) has reviewed the Ofcom compliance codes, rules, and radio broadcast content checklist in detail to get a foundational understanding. Ongoing compliance training will be scheduled annually and refreshed whenever Ofcom guidance changes, ensuring our / his practices remain robust and up to date.

As a new service, we are committed to ensuring full compliance with all relevant Ofcom codes, rules, and broadcasting laws from the outset and looking to get external specialist training for the Compliance Officer and key programme staff which will cover all aspects of the Broadcasting Code, including harm and offence, fairness, privacy, and due impartiality.

- 4.2 Please give details of any practical compliance experience (including dates) the person named in response to either question 2.3 or 2.5 in Part B (i.e the individual who holds overall responsibility for compliance of the service) has with respect to the relevant codes and rules.

No prior experience; external specialist training will be sought to build radio-specific skills.

Nevertheless, the Compliance Officer brings relevant expertise in overseeing compliance for other projects, including managing funder requirements in their role as Head of Funding and Partnerships at the ACAA. Therefore, the importance of this role and thorough understanding and knowledge of relevant regulation is appreciated.

- 4.3 For each role within your compliance team please provide job title and a brief description of the functions of the role specific to ensuring compliance of the proposed service. Please do not give names of individual members of staff – this question relates to job roles rather than currently employed individuals.

Our team structure for the Afghan Radio will be as follows:

- On the top will be the Board which will comprise of 3-5 voluntary members with representation from the service area, professionals with relevant skills and experience, volunteers and other users and co-opted members of the community.
- Under the board will be 3 teams – Broadcast Team, Training and Compliance Team, and Finance Team. The Broadcast Team will comprise of a Station Manager, Chief Programme Officer, Presenters and Volunteers with other broadcast related roles (admin, etc.). This team will be responsible for the overall operation and success of our radio station, drafting programming policy, co-ordinating listener research and engagement, managing broadcast schedules, coordinating with stakeholders, monitoring output and performance, and oversee the technical and administrative aspects of the station. The Volunteer Forum will provide a voice for volunteers and other users, to influence the management of the station, raise any problems, develop programming ideas and devise broadcast events.
- The Training and Compliance Team will include a Compliance Officer and external training Specialist Advisers. The Compliance Officer will receive specialist training from advisers to ensure that all broadcast output meets Ofcom's codes and rules, that all presenters receive and understand compliance training, and sign agreements confirming adherence to broadcasting standards.
- The Finance Team will include a Finance Officer who will manage the radio station's budget, prepare financial reports, and ensure compliance with funding and audit requirements. They will also support effective resource allocation and maintain transparent financial records for the project.

The Chief Compliance Officer will work closely with the Station Manager to ensure all broadcast output meets Ofcom's codes and rules. This Compliance Manager will regularly monitor live and recorded shows ("snooping") to check compliance, address any issues, and handle all complaints from listeners in line with our complaints procedure.

- 4.4 How does the applicant intend to formally train staff in compliance procedures? Please include details of the compliance training that will be given to those responsible for live programming, including compliance staff, presenters and producers.

All the programming team will be obliged to read the codes and rules and sign a contract of adherence to the codes and rules before they are allowed to broadcast. The Compliance Officer will work with specialist training advisers to facilitate 1 to 1 training on the codes and rules with each presenter ensuring they have full comprehension ahead of them broadcasting live. The Compliance Officer will look to attend Ofcom compliance training when available, noting this is infrequent but recognising Ofcom offer help relating to specific queries.

- 4.5 Will the training described in response to question 4.5 be mandatory for all staff and volunteers? If not, outline who will receive it.

Yes

- 4.6 It is a licence requirement that a licensee must ensure that all programming on its service (broadcast at any time of the day or night) complies with Ofcom's codes and rules (e.g. Ofcom's Broadcasting Code, which sets requirements on standards to be observed in programme content for the protection of the public).

- a) Set out in detail below the systems the applicant intends to have in place to ensure it will be able to comply with the codes and rules when the service is broadcasting live content. Your response should include details of what you will do to prepare presenters and guests pre-broadcast and the process for ensuring that any non-complaint content is dealt with swiftly during the broadcast.

All content will be vetted ahead of being broadcasted. All presenters will be trained in the relevant codes and rules and will sign a contract of adherence prior to broadcasting. The Compliance Officer will be fully conversant with the codes and rules and will maintain professional development by attending training courses when available.

- b) Set out in detail below how the applicant intends to ensure that pre-recorded material will comply with Ofcom's codes and rules. Pre-recorded content could include, for example, material obtained from, or streamed from, third party sources as well as content produced by the licensee.

All pre-recorded content will be listened to by the Station Manager and the Compliance Officer ahead of broadcast to ensure it adheres to all codes and rules.

- 4.7 Please set out how you will ensure the ongoing delivery/compliance of the **on-air** character of service as set out in the Key Commitments. This should be focused on the content you will broadcast on the station.

In your answer, please ensure you include details on each of the following points:

- a) How you will monitor that the character of service is being delivered;
- b) who will be responsible for monitoring this;
- c) how often will they monitor it;
- d) how you ensure this information is published; and
- e) where the information will be published/made publicly available.

The Station Manager will work closely with the Chief Programme Officer to ensure the station delivers its Key Commitments through monthly spot checks of live and recorded content, plus quarterly programme reviews with the Steering Group. These checks will monitor relevance, cultural representation, and community engagement. Findings will be summarised in an annual report, published on our website and shared via social media, ensuring transparency and accountability.

- 4.8 Please set out how you will ensure the ongoing delivery/compliance of the **off-air** social gain activities as set out in the Key Commitments.

In your answer, please ensure you include details on each of the following points:

- a) How you will monitor that off-air social gain activities are being delivered;
- b) who will be responsible for monitoring this;
- c) how often will they monitor it;
- d) how you ensure this information is published; and
- e) where the information will be published/made publicly available.

The Station Manager will work closely with the Chief Programme Officer to oversee the delivery of off-air social gain activities through monthly reviews of training logs and participant feedback. This will include tracking attendance, monitoring progress against agreed targets, and ensuring that all activities are inclusive and accessible. Progress will be discussed quarterly with the Steering Group to ensure that activities remain relevant to community needs and continue to deliver meaningful social gain. To enhance transparency and accountability, an events and campaigns diary will be maintained throughout the year to record all training sessions, outreach events, community campaigns, and partnership activities. This diary will allow us to monitor both the frequency and quality of delivery, ensuring that commitments are met consistently. Responsibility for monitoring will sit with the Station Manager, who will conduct monthly checks, with the Chief Programme



Officer providing additional oversight. A consolidated report will be produced annually, summarising activities, impact, and lessons learned. This information will be published in an annual summary on our website, shared via our social media channels, and made available at community events. By doing so, we ensure that delivery is transparent, accessible to all stakeholders, and aligned with our Key Commitments.

4.9 What language(s) does the applicant intend to broadcast in?

English, Farsi, Dari, and Pashto

4.10 For each language listed in response to question 4.9 please provide details of how many compliance team member(s) are fluent in each language and will be responsible for ensuring that content broadcast in that language complies with the Ofcom's code and rules. **Please do not give names of individual members of staff.**

The Station Manager, the Compliance Officer and specialist advisers will work together to ensure that the content broadcasted in our proposed languages (English, Farsi, Dari, Pashto) complies with the Ofcom's code and rules.

We will hire a Station Manager who will be fluent in English and either Pashto, or Dari. The Compliance Officer (already in place) is fluent in English and Farsi. Two specialist advisers will be onboarded – one fluent in Pashto and one fluent in Dari.

# 5. Declaration

## About this section

This form must be submitted by the applicant named in response to question 2.2. An agent may not sign the form.

The person authorised to make the declaration on behalf of the applicant must print their name and must be one of the following :

- A director of the company or the company secretary where the applicant is a company.
- A designated member where the applicant is a Limited Liability Partnership.

The declaration must also be dated.

- 5.1 I hereby apply to Ofcom for the grant of a licence for the community digital sound programme service described above and declare that the information given in this application form is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.
- 5.2 I further declare and warrant:
- a) that I am not a disqualified person within the meaning of that expression as defined in Part II of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990, as amended, or as a result of a disqualification order under Section 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996;
  - b) that having made all reasonable enquiries neither the applicant nor any person controlling the applicant, as a result of the grant to me of the licence, breach any requirement of Schedule 14 to the Communications Act 2003 with regard to the accumulation of interests in broadcasting services or to the restrictions on cross-media interests; and
  - c) that the applicant is not disqualified by virtue of the provisions of section 143 (5) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to political objects and the provisions of section 144 (3) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to the provision of false information or through the withholding of information with the intention of misleading Ofcom; and
  - d) that no director or person concerned directly or indirectly in the management of the applicant is subject to a disqualification order as defined by section 145 (1) of the Broadcasting Act 1996.
- 5.3 I understand that Ofcom reserves the right to revoke the licence (if granted) if at any time any material statement made to Ofcom is found to be false and to have been by the applicant or any member or officer thereof knowing it to be false. I also understand that under sections 144 and 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996, the provision of false information could incur a criminal conviction and a disqualification from the holding of a Broadcasting Act licence. I further certify that, to the best of my knowledge, any matters which might influence Ofcom's judgement as to whether the directors and any other individuals and/or bodies corporate with substantial involvement in this application are fit and proper persons to participate in a radio licence, have been made known to Ofcom.

**Full name (BLOCK CAPITALS) of the applicant or person authorised to make the application of behalf of the applicant:**

DARIUS NASIMI

**Date of application:**

10 August 2025

I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant in my capacity as **(delete as appropriate):**

Company secretary / company director / designated member (in the case of a Limited Liability Partnership)

**You also need to complete the [confidential section \(Part B\) of the application form](#).**