



Community Digital Sound Programme (C-DSP) licence

Application form – Part A (public)

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

AKASH RADIO LEEDS LTD

Proposed service name:

AKASH 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 MULTIPLEX

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

KAMAL PREET KAUR, 86, ASHFORD AVENUE, HAYES, MIDDX. UB4 0NB;
akashnewspaper@gmail.com

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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.

The purpose of this form

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

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

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).

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

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

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):

AKASH RADIO LEEDS LTD

2.2 Company registration number stated on Companies House:

8737123

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:

AMAR GATE
46 ALWOODLEY LANE
LEEDS
LS17 7PT

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

X—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	GURMAIL SINGH SAHOTA
Job title	DIRECTOR
Address	AMAR GATE 46, ALWOODLEY LANE LEEDS LS17 7PT
Telephone	
Mobile	07888696276
Email	akashnewspaper@gmail.com

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

www.akashradio.co.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 service will be financed from reserve funds retained for improvement of the service.

We will apply for grants from local authority's and from other public bodies.

Income from the annual fundraising dinner/dance event

Income from donations.

Additional income will be generated from sale of increased number of advertisements due to the new DAB service.

Further support will be available from the philanthropic members of the community in West London

No political or religious body funding.

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 ¹	Country of residence	Other officerships held (and nature of the business concerned)	Other employment
GURMAIL SINGH SAHOTA	AMAR GATE 46, ALWOODLEY LANE, LEEDS LS17 7PT	UK	RANI PROPERTIES (LEEDS) LTD (PROPERTY BUSINESS)	RANI PROPERTIES (LEEDS) LTD (PROPERTY BUSINESS)
GURDEV SINGH DAHELE MBE	AMAR GATE 46, ALWOODLEY LANE, LEEDS, LS17 7PT	UK	N/A	N/A

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
N/A				
Comments				

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



- 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	

- 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		

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
GURMAIL SINGH SAHOTA	AMAR GATE 46 ALWOODLEY LANE LEEDS LS17 7PT	N/A
GURDEV SINGH DAHELE MBE	AMAR GATE 46 ALWOODLEY LANE LEEDS LS17 7PT	N/A

- 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
GURMAIL SINGH SAHOTA	RANI PROPERTIES (LEEDS) LTD	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
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				

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; ²	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	

² 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?

X—Yes ☐ No

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

Licence number	Name of multiplex
CR100143BA/1	AKASH RADIO LEEDS LTD
DP104915BA/1	AKASH RADIO LEEDS LTD

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

X—Yes ☐ No

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

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
Various (2002-2004)	Akash Radio Ealing (RSL in Ealing)
Various (2004-2014)	Akash Radio Leeds (RSL in Leeds)

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

X—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
2002-2004	VARIOUS	AKASH RADIO (RSL IN EALING)
2004-2014	VARIOUS	AKASH RADIO LEEDS (RSL IN LEEDS)

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
CR100143BA/1	AKASH RADIO LEEDS
DP104915BA/1	AKASH RADIO LEEDS
CDP103947BA/2	AKASH RADIO LEEDS

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
CR100143BA/1	AKASH RADIO LEEDS
DP104915BA/1	AKASH RADIO LEEDS
CDP103947BA/2	AKASH RADIO LEEDS

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	

- 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 **X-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		

- 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 **X-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				

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

☐ Yes **X-No**

If yes, please provide the following details:

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

AKASH 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.

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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).³

86, ASHFORD AVENUE,
HAYES,
MIDDLESEX
UB4 0NB

³ 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.

NO

- 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 cover-age area of the radio multiplex service on which you intend to broadcast. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Our target demographic encompasses family audiences of approximately 80k residents of Punjabi heritage across West London boroughs, representing one the of the UK's largest and most-established Punjabi communities, including first-generation immigrants (age 55+) who primarily consume Punjabi-language content, second and third-generation British Punjabis ages (16-54), seeking bicultural programming, special focus on Afghan Sikh community, recent arrivals requiring orientation and integration support, youth aged (16-25) under-represented in traditional media and children between 5 and 16 years of age.

- 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.**

Akash Radio Leeds Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, a not-for-profit distributing organisation. When any surplus is made it is ploughed back in to the organisation's reserve fund for improving and sustaining the service or in providing training benefits to the target community. Akash Radio Leeds Ltd generates income by sale of air time or seek sponsorships from small businesses in and around the locality, receives donations from listeners, apply for grants from local authority and other public bodies, raise funds by organising fund raising events like annual dinner dance and saving on wages by due to time given by the volunteers in-kind. The funds generated are exclusively used to cover the overhead costs of running the radio service which includes rent of the premises, utility bills, telephone charges, insurance cover for public liability and building contents, various annual license fees, purchase of capital equipment, training of staff and community training. Any profit or surplus created in the year is retained and ploughed back into the organisation and used for securing or improving the future provision of the service, or for the delivery of social gain.

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 aims for the following social gain

Improved linguistic inclusion and heritage preservation — Punjabi and Hindko content will aid intergenerational engagement; capturing Hindko oral history will safeguard an endangered dialect. Our consultations with local gurdwaras confirmed that Afghan Sikhs feel culturally marginalised, especially Hindko speakers, demonstrating unmet demand.

Spiritual and mental-wellbeing support — live recitation (Sehaj Path) and mindfulness sessions support emotional resilience; research has identified mental health stigmas in South Asian communities.

Local civic empowerment — practical programming on housing, immigration, voter registration, partnership with local councils (Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Harrow) and Citizens Advice; research also shows Sikh communities face barriers in civic participation.

Cultural cohesion and identity — festival coverage (e.g. Vaisakhi, Bandi Chhor Divas) strengthens British Sikh identity and educates British-born Sikhs. Inter-faith dialogue content fosters integration with other faith communities.

Current affairs programming, such as news and discussions: Will keep communities abreast of local and global issues, making them aware of what impacts their lives directly and indirectly.

Community partner collaboration:

Local Gurdwaras and community organisations to co-produce spiritual and cultural programming.

NHS trusts & clinics: co-producing health-information segments (e.g. vaccination drives, mental health awareness) etc.

Local councils & Citizens Advice: Joint workshops and voter-registration events

Educational institutions for information and advice

Interfaith networks: joint discussion programming with local faith groups to highlight Sikh contributions to multicultural Britain.

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

Our service will encourage open and respectful expression via:

Live call-ins and messaging platforms, allowing listeners to share views on civic, current affairs and cultural topics.

Panel discussions and interfaith debates, featuring Sikh voices on local issues and British values.

Call-for-guest segments, inviting community members—especially elders, Afghan Sikhs—to contribute oral histories or viewpoints.

Structured feedback shows, where volunteers read listener suggestions or comments and hosts respond publicly.

This framework ensures a broad range of opinions, encourages dialogue across generations and faiths, and reflects community priorities in programming choices.

- 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.**

Akash Radio, Hayes studio is located in the heart of the local community with easy access through public transport.

We will have **scheduled workshops**, drop-in sessions—open to all age groups—on basic broadcasting skills (recording, editing, live presenting), run in collaboration with local community and educational groups;

Student placements and internships: positions will be offered to local further-education and sixth-form pupils, giving hands-on access to studio use and production.

Digital access and remote working: volunteers without transport can contribute via smartphone recording apps and remote editing platforms; remote mentorship through WhatsApp or Teams.

Language-inclusive training: materials and instruction provided primarily in Punjabi or Hindko, with translation support; this ensures elders and non-English-speakers can fully participate.

Flexibility and outreach: training and studio time scheduled outside work and school hours; will organise mobile pop-up training booths at festivals and community fairs where possible, where people can try mini-podcasting projects.

- 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.**

By sharing local stories and promoting dialogue, our service will deepen mutual understanding within the diverse Sikh diaspora. Oral history programmes will give elders a platform to speak, while younger British-born listeners will gain insight into Afghan Sikh experiences and Hindko heritage. Live civic content about local council issues will help foster shared civic identity. Inter-faith segments and collaborative cultural programmes will bring together different language groups and faiths, reinforcing solidarity and bridging generational or linguistic divides.

- 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.**

Our West London team comprises of highly experienced professionals.

Led by the Station Manager, who has extensive media, community, cultural, advocacy and charity experience through his work and connections with Sikh gurdwaras, community organisations, organising community cultural events and hosting radio/TV programmes.

Programme Manager – with rich experience and extensive qualifications - is well versed in multi-media, journalism, news, educational, cultural needs and programming content. Has experience working with council and women's networks.

Other members include people who work with NHS outreach, community networks, digital content creators and a specialist Afghan Sikh community liaison officer.

Together, they bring expertise in delivering community development, language-preservation initiatives, volunteering programmes and media training— areas closely aligned with our service's goals of social gain and engagement.

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 target communities will get to participate in the operation and management through:

Governing committee: with community representatives from each target area (Ealing, Hillingdon, Harrow and Hounslow), including elders, women and youth.

Advisory panels: thematic panels (e.g., youth panel, women's panel, Afghan-Sikh panel) will meet quarterly to help shape programming, language balance, music choices and civic content.

Volunteer producers and presenters: will have opportunities directly as well as via gurdwaras and partners; participants may create shows, host cultural segments, or contribute oral history recordings.

Training-to-roles pathway: individuals who will satisfactorily complete training workshops will be able to take on operational roles (e.g. assistant producer, sound tech, outreach coordinator).

Regular open forums: meetings where members contribute ideas for new content, service improvements, and fundraising priorities. Through these formal and informal pathways, members of all generations and linguistic backgrounds play active roles in shaping both management and content.

Accountability

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

Members of the target community will be able to contact and influence the service through:

Multiple access channels: phone, WhatsApp number, email, website form, and in-person contacts at partner gurdwaras and events.

Call-in programmes: regular call-in segments where community submissions—questions, concerns or local stories—are aired and discussed.

Surveys and polls: online and paper-based surveys distributed via local community centres or gurdwaras to gather preferences on language content, programming hours, and topics.

Community representatives: Our governing and advisory panels will act as liaisons, relaying community views into programming decisions.

Open door policy will ensure every member will be able to propose ideas or flag issues.

These mechanisms will ensure accessible, ongoing contact and direct influence over the service.

- 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.**

We will:

Log every suggestion or criticism in a centralised feedback system accessible to staff and board.

Review submissions weekly in an editorial meeting.

Use advisory panels to assess significant critiques—for example, if content balance or language mix is in question—and recommend action.

Respond publicly on-air (when appropriate) or via social channels to show transparency and accountability.

Escalation process: unresolved or recurring issues will be elevated to the team in Leeds; community representatives on the board will review and help determine resolution.

This process ensures feedback is heard, acknowledged, and actively acted upon—with visible outcomes communicated back to the community.

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	SERVICE NAME – AKASH RADIO
Service Description	<p>AKASH RADIO 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>DESCRIPTION OF TARGET AUDIENCE: About 80k family audiences of age ranges 5 years to 80+, of Punjabi heritage based in West London boroughs of Ealing, Hillingdon, Harrow and Hounslow</p> <p>DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCALITY: All of the area covered by the multiplex, especially the areas in and around the London Boroughs of Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Harrow.</p> <p>BRIEF STATEMENT OF MAIN PURPOSE OF THE RADIO SERVICE, ITS FUNCTIONS/ACTIVITIES - A hyper-local, not-for-profit radio service for Punjabi-speaking communities in West London, promoting spiritual wellbeing, cultural heritage, civic engagement, current affairs, and social inclusion—especially for underserved Afghan Sikhs—through multilingual programming, oral history projects, community partnerships, and accessible training and participation opportunities.</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"> • the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion, • 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 • the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of links within it. <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	24/7
Multiplex	WEST LONDON MULTIPLEX RUN BY CITY WEST DIGITAL

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).

The Director with an overall responsibility for compliance, mentioned in 2.5 has received his annual refresher training on April 1, 2025. In line with Ofcom requirements and our internal governance policy, all key personnel must complete an annual compliance refresher training to ensure continued adherence to broadcasting standards. This year refresher covered the following modules:

Section 1 – What is Community Radio

Aims and objectives of community radio.

Section 2 – Ofcom, Regulations, and the Broadcasting Code

Ofcom's role and functions

Community radio legislation and regulation.

Broadcasting Code background and requirements.

Complaints handling, investigations, and sanctions

Rules on competitions

Section 3: Key Reference Documents:

Ofcom & The Broadcasting Code

Ofcom Broadcasting Code – Radio Sections 2019 (must read)

Section 4 – Libel & Copyright/ Style

Britain's libel laws

Style Guide & Presentation

Style and content guidelines to maintain professionalism and compliance.

The person mentioned in 2.3 will undergo this training before the launch of the service.

- 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.

Both persons mentioned in 2.3 and 2.5 have multiple years of radio broadcast experience under their belts. The Director has managed community radios for the last 14 years and has extensive management and broadcasting experience. He is familiar with the relevant Ofcom's Compliance Procedures and aware of the Broadcasting and Advertising codes and rules.

West London content compliance will be supervised by the Programme Manager in Hayes, who has long-standing broadcast experience herself and has deep and clear understanding of compliance and related responsibilities. She is a well-versed broadcast journalist and understands Ofcom broadcast codes and regulations.

- 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 compliance team includes:

The Director with overall compliance responsibility as the applicant but day-to-day compliance of West London output will be overseen by the Programme Manager in Hayes.

Programme Manager will be the main compliance liaison officer with Ofcom with regards to content broadcast on West London Multiplex. She will be responsible for all content compliance on West London Multiplex. She will have powers to stop live broadcasts if needed.

Station Manager, Hayes will be the trainer of Broadcasting rules and regulations to all staff and volunteers to replicate the training mentioned above in section 4.1. He has an extensive radio broadcast experience.

- 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.

The Station Manager in Hayes will be responsible for training the West London staff and volunteers in compliance procedures. He will ensure the staff understand the

kind of programme output needed on West London Multiplex to meet Ofcom guidelines on broadcast and compliance.

The Programme Manager will support Station Manager in compliance and delivery of the Ofcom broadcasting code and will remain the main compliance liaison officer with Ofcom with regards to content broadcast on West London Multiplex.

The specialist Afghan Sikh liaison officer will ensure compliance of the Hinkdo content.

Leeds studio compliance officer will organise workshops to make volunteers aware of compliance of broadcasting and advertising codes, rules and regulations from time to time. The codes will be constantly refreshed with volunteers on regular basis. Training will be given to all those presenters who will be responsible for live programming, include details of the compliance training on the broadcasting code to ensure that all content that is broadcasted is redeemed legal, in the right context and to the broadcasting code.

The training will include all contents mentioned above in 4.1 and any relevant Ofcom updates.

- 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.

The training as mentioned above in section 4.1 will be mandatory for all staff and volunteers involved in production and presentation of content. Basic training around Ofcom guidelines will be offered to the rest of the staff and volunteers.

- 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.

To ensure that all on-air content meets broadcast guidelines and Ofcom codes and rules we will have

Pre-broadcast preparation: Presenter briefings on sensitive topics and community issues, guest pre-interviews to assess potential compliance risks, topic research and fact-checking for discussion programmes, clear editorial guidelines for religious, political and cultural content

Live broadcast management:

Duty manager present during all live programming, delay system for phone-ins and interactive content, clear escalation procedures for non-compliant content, immediate response protocols for complaints or concerns, emergency cut-off procedures for serious breaches

- 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 undergo review.

Content review process:

All pre-recorded content reviewed before broadcast

Third-party material checked for copyright and compliance

Music playlists vetted for appropriate content and licensing

Religious and political programming reviewed by qualified community representatives

Archive material assessed for contemporary relevance and sensitivity

Quality control:

Technical standards verification

Content timing and scheduling confirmation

Metadata and logging requirements completion

- 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 oversee the content quality and character of the on-air service.

Monitoring process:

Weekly programme content analysis against Key Commitments

Monthly community feedback review and assessment

Quarterly programming schedule evaluation

Responsibility and frequency:

Programme Manager conducts weekly reviews

Station Manager provides monthly summary reports

Board receives quarterly compliance reports

Publication: Monthly compliance reports published on station website

Quarterly newsletter includes programming updates and community feedback

Annual community impact report distributed to stakeholders

- 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 have the overall responsibility of meeting key commitments on social gain. He will set up a

Monitoring process:

Monthly tracking of training sessions and community participation

Quarterly assessment of partnership activities and outcomes

Annual evaluation of social gain impact and community benefit

Responsibility and frequency:

Volunteer Coordinator maintains monthly activity logs

Community Liaison Officer produces quarterly impact reports

Board conducts annual strategic review

Publication:

Quarterly activity reports on website and social media

Annual impact report distributed to community partners

Monthly newsletter features highlighting community activities

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

Punjabi, English and Hindko

- 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.**

We will have

Punjabi: Four fluent compliance team members including, the Station Manager, Programme Manager and two senior presenters

English: All compliance team members fluent

Hindko: Two specialist compliance advisors from Afghan Sikh community, with Programme Manager providing oversight.

All language-specific content will monitored by designated native speakers with compliance training.

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:

GURMAIL SINGH SAHOTA

Date of application:

15.08.2025

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

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