

Revocation of the South West Sussex small-scale radio multiplex licence award

Background

Under section 51(6) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as modified by the Small-scale Radio Multiplex and Community Digital Radio Order 2019), Ofcom may revoke the award of a small-scale radio multiplex licence where the licence itself has not yet been granted and Ofcom has reasonable grounds for believing that the person to whom the licence was awarded will not provide the service within 18 months of the date of the award.

Decision

Ofcom has taken the decision to revoke the licence award we made on 22 July 2024 to Digital radio West Sussex Limited ('DRWS') in relation to the South West Sussex small-scale radio multiplex service.

This is on the basis that the statutory conditions for revocation as set out above have been met. Firstly, the awarded licence has not yet been granted. Secondly, we have reasonable grounds to believe the service will not be provided within 18 months of award (i.e. by 22 January 2026), as DRWS has asked that the award to be withdrawn on the basis that it no longer intends to launch the multiplex.

Next steps

In explaining its reasons for not proceeding, CSDR indicated it would be unlikely to re-apply for the licence should one be re-advertised for the same area. However, given the South West Sussex licence area received more than one application when it was advertised by Ofcom in March 2023, we have taken the decision to re-advertise this licence area in the final planned round of small-scale DAB multiplex licensing (Round Eight) later this year. The advertised area will be the same as the one previously advertised in 2023.

August 2025

