

# Revocation of the Taunton small-scale radio multiplex licence award

## Background

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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

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Ofcom has taken the decision to revoke the licence award we made on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to Tone Community Media Group CIC (“Tone”) in relation to the Taunton 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 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024), as Tone has asked that the award be withdrawn. Tone has said that this is due to a planning issue at its chosen transmitter site which was outside of its control, and therefore launching by 18<sup>th</sup> April was no longer possible. Whilst Tone had previously submitted a final technical plan, and Ofcom had approved it, the requirement is that the service be provided within 18 months of award.

## Next steps

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Tone has expressed an interest in re-applying for a small-scale radio multiplex licence in Taunton should it be re-advertised. Ofcom will therefore consider re-advertising the Taunton small-scale multiplex licence at a later date.