
Advertisement of licences for small-scale radio multiplex services

Round Two – North west England and north east Wales
'macro area'

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Closing date for applications: 1 September 2021

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1. Overview

1.1 In this document, Ofcom proposes to grant licences to provide small-scale radio multiplex services, and is inviting applications for licences for the following areas, which together constitute the north west England and north east Wales ‘macro area’:

- Blackburn, Burnley & Darwen
- Blackpool
- Bolton & Bury
- Cheshire (East)
- Cheshire (Mid)
- Chester & Ellesmere Port
- Clitheroe
- Congleton & Leek
- Crewe, Nantwich & Whitchurch
- Glossop & Buxton
- Liverpool
- Manchester
- Oldham & Rochdale
- Preston
- Rhyl, Ruthin & Mold
- Southport
- Stockport
- Stoke & Newcastle-under-Lyme
- Warrington, Widnes & Runcorn
- Wigan
- Wirral
- Wrexham

1.2 A radio multiplex service is the means by which DAB digital radio stations are broadcast and can provide around ten stereo radio stations (and around 20 stereo services DAB+ is utilised).

1.3 The advertisement of these licences constitutes Round Two of Ofcom’s programme of small-scale DAB licensing, as set out in our statement on small-scale DAB licensing published in April 2020. Note that we intend to award no more than one small-scale radio multiplex licence for each area that we advertise (i.e. we have no plans to award additional small-scale radio multiplex licences for a given area once a small-scale radio multiplex service has been licensed by us to serve that area). The ability to award one licence in each of the above listed areas will be subject to available frequency resource within the ‘macro area’ (see Section 2 of this document).

1.4 Small-scale radio multiplex licences are awarded by Ofcom in a competitive process. This means that applications are judged against specified criteria, and Ofcom awards each licence to the applicant which it considers best meets the criteria.

1.5 The closing-date for applications for the small-scale radio multiplex licences listed above is **5pm on Wednesday 01 September 2021**. The non-refundable application fee is £500.

- 1.6 Ofcom is also now inviting applications from potential programme service providers who would like to broadcast a Community Digital Sound Programme ('C-DSP') service on a small-scale radio multiplex service for which a licence is being advertised in this document.

2. About ‘macro areas’

- 2.1 North west England and north east Wales is the first ‘macro area’ to be advertised by Ofcom in our programme of small-scale multiplex licensing. We have designated ‘macro areas’; that is, regions where there may be insufficient spectrum available to accommodate all of the identified small-scale radio multiplex service licence areas.
- 2.2 Our approach to advertising licences in macro areas will differ slightly from that adopted for small-scale DAB multiplex services elsewhere in the following respects:
- a) We need to advertise all of the areas contained within a macro area together. This contrasts with our approach for non-macro areas of seeking a geographic spread of locations within each advertisement round.
 - b) Instead of specifying a nominal frequency block expected to be used for each small-scale multiplex area, this advertisement for a macro area sets out a range of frequency blocks that may be allocated.
 - c) Applicants will need to ensure that the transmitters they propose respect the outgoing interference limit specified in paragraph 4.68 of the [Guidance Notes](#) for applicants and licensees, and do not put a greater signal level into any small-scale areas that lie outside the macro area, except where the advertisement states otherwise. The advertisement does not set out any signal level constraints to other advertised areas within the macro area. Applicants should, however, be mindful that spectrum is scarce within macro areas, and should seek to minimise the signal level that their technical plan would put into other areas. Where an application fails to minimise the signal levels that the technical plan puts into other areas, we would consider this to have a bearing on the applicant’s ability to establish the service (which is one of the statutory award criteria) due to the need for further mitigations before a service could be licensed and come on the air
- 2.3 Assessment of applications within the macro area will initially be carried out in the same way as for areas that are not in a macro area. For each individual advertised licence for which one or more acceptable applications have been received, Ofcom will select a preferred applicant by considering the applications received for that licence against the statutory criteria.
- 2.4 Once Ofcom has selected a preferred applicant for each of the advertised licences for which acceptable applications have been received within the macro area, we will allocate the available frequency blocks with the aim of accommodating the technical plans provided by all of the preferred applicants. This process may require us to consider amendments to some or all of the technical plans in order to limit the amount of interference that small-scale multiplexes within the macro area cause to each other. These amendments may include restrictions on transmitter powers, antenna patterns or heights. As well as limiting interference, these mitigations would most likely reduce the coverage that some small-scale multiplexes may be able to achieve, perhaps significantly in some cases. Whilst amendments will often also be required outside macro areas, it is important for prospective applicants to note that these may be more significant within macro areas.

- 2.5 Where a particular frequency needs to be shared between several applicants in the macro area, we will seek to minimise the interference interaction between the areas, and to balance any consequent coverage impact on each of the areas. In carrying out the latter analysis, we will also consider whether the resulting balanced coverage would (in Ofcom's opinion) result in unviable multiplexes¹, and whether instead the frequency should be allocated to only a proportion (or perhaps only one) of the applicants across the macro area. We will not be able to award a licence in those areas where we are unable to allocate a frequency. In other words, even if we receive acceptable applications for an advertised area within a macro area, it may not be possible to make an award due to unavailability of sufficient spectrum.
- 2.6 In making decisions on how to allocate limited frequencies, and therefore those advertised areas where we are both able and unable to make awards, we will take account of the amount of capacity reserved for community digital sound programme services ('C-DSPs') in respect of each of the affected multiplexes. We will give preference to areas in which there are a higher number of reserved capacity slots (as specified in the advertisement), which reflect our expectation of the number of potential C-DSP services that may seek carriage on the multiplex in due course. That is, if the choice comes down to award a licence in an area with more reserved capacity slots or one with fewer, our preference will be to award in the area with more reserved slots. Where there are equal numbers of reserved slots, we will give preference to areas with more existing licensed community analogue services whose coverage area substantially overlaps with the coverage area of the proposed small-scale multiplex (i.e. for which the multiplex would provide a route to digital).
- 2.7 When we have completed the process of frequency allocation, we anticipate that licence awards will be announced in one batch at the end of the process, which differs from our practice outside macro areas. However, if there are any areas within the macro area not affected by frequency shortages (for example, because we receive no applications for some of the other areas we have advertised) it may prove possible to announce these earlier.

¹ Unviable' may include an inability to serve the principal population centre within an advertised area, coverage being largely patchy or non-contiguous, and/or coverage that serves significantly less than half of the population that the applicant proposed.

3. The licences being advertised

- 3.1 This section provides, for each small-scale radio multiplex licence we are advertising in Round Two, a map specifying the geographical area or locality which the licence is intended to cover, and a table of relevant data for each licence area, including the adult population coverage. The glossary below explains the data contained in these tables:

Licence area population	The total adult (aged 15+) population within the area that the advertised multiplex licence is intended to cover (i.e. the population enclosed by the red line on the map). This, and all other population data in these tables, is derived from 2011 Census data.
Size of licence area	The geographical size, in square kilometres, of the area that the advertised multiplex licence is intended to cover (i.e. the area enclosed within the red line on the map). The figure includes areas of sea where applicable.
Reserved C-DSP capacity	<p>The small-scale DAB legislation requires Ofcom to ensure that small-scale radio multiplex licensees must reserve broadcast capacity for a minimum of three Community Digital Sound Programme ('C-DSP') services. It also requires us to specify this reservation at the time of advertising a small-scale radio multiplex licence. For each licence we are advertising, Ofcom has determined the number of C-DSP services for which capacity must be reserved. These decisions were taken based on the factors set out in paragraph 6.13 of our Licensing small-scale DAB statement.</p> <p>The licensee must ensure that at least 36 capacity units² are reserved for each C-DSP service. For example, a capacity reservation for three services means that 108 capacity units (i.e. 3 x 36 capacity units) must be reserved exclusively for use by C-DSP services. This capacity cannot be used by the multiplex licensee for any purpose other than for the carriage of radio services holding a C-DSP licence.</p>
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	This is the name of an existing local radio multiplex service which overlaps with the area to be covered by the small-scale radio multiplex service for which the licence is being advertised. The total adult (aged 15+) population within the existing local radio multiplex service's licensed area (which may be larger than the area it serves from its current transmitter network) is noted in brackets. Where more than one existing local radio multiplex service overlaps with the small-scale radio multiplex licence area

² 36 capacity units is equivalent to a DAB+ bitrate of 48 kbit/s at protection level EEP3A.

	<p>being advertised, additional rows labelled ‘Local DAB service 2 [...]’ and ‘Local DAB service 3 [...]’ are included as appropriate.</p>
<p>Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)</p>	<p>The adult (aged 15+) population falling within the advertised small-scale radio multiplex licence area which also falls within the licensed area of the overlapping local radio multiplex service noted above. This overlapping population is provided as an absolute figure, and also as a percentage of the local radio multiplex service’s total licensed area population in brackets.</p> <p>The extent of overlaps between small-scale and local radio multiplex service licensed areas is relevant, as there is a legal requirement to limit such overlaps to no more than 40% of the population in the licensed area of the existing local radio multiplex service.</p>
<p>Proposed frequency block</p>	<p>The nominal transmission frequency which has been allocated to the advertised small-scale radio multiplex licence area, and on which we intend for the service to be provided. Applicants should note that the frequency given here is provisional, reflecting Ofcom’s intention at time of advertisement. It may change prior to licence award for spectrum management reasons, but applicants must base their applications on the specified frequency.</p> <p>For advertised areas within a macro area, a range of frequencies may be given.</p>
<p>Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes</p>	<p>Lists any nearby small-scale radio multiplex services and/or any existing (or proposed) local radio multiplex services which share or may share the nominal transmission frequency block above.</p> <p>A spreadsheet containing links to licence area data and population data for these potential co-block areas is available on the Ofcom website: Supporting technical data and links for Round Two locations. This data is in MapInfo Interchange Format and can be imported into geographic information system (GIS) software packages. The spreadsheet also contains links to standalone maps for all small-scale and local radio multiplex licensed areas.</p> <p>The information on co-block DAB services is relevant given that there are limits on the amount of signal strength that a small-scale radio multiplex service can place into the licensed area of another radio multiplex service which uses the same frequency block. These signal strength limits are 38 dBµV/m at 10m height in the case of other small-scale radio multiplex licensed areas, and 29 dBµV/m at 10m height where local radio multiplex services use co-block frequencies. In the tables below each map, local radio multiplex services are identified by the letters ‘LRMS’ following the</p>

	<p>area name. Other area names denote other actual or planned small-scale multiplex areas.</p> <p>For advertised areas within macro areas, it is not possible for Ofcom to set out in advance which of the advertised areas within a macro area will use specific frequency blocks, and the advertisement will therefore not set out any signal level constraints to other advertised areas within the macro area. Applicants should however be mindful that spectrum is scarce within macro areas, and seek to limit the interference their technical plan could put into other areas.</p> <p>Applicants for advertised areas within macro areas should ensure that their proposed technical plan respects the 38 dBµV/m limit into <u>all</u> small-scale DAB areas outside the macro area, except where the advertisement specifies named areas where that limit does not apply.</p>
Additional information	Further information or constraints that Ofcom believes the applicant for the specific licence area should be aware of. This may include such things as advice on areas of higher than expected interference, specific concerns about outgoing interference, and use of certain transmitter sites.
<Link to licence area data>	A link to data files which describe the geographic licence area. This data is in MapInfo Interchange Format and can be imported into a geographic information system (GIS) software package.
<Link> to population data>	A link to data files containing the population distribution within the licence area. This data is in MapInfo Interchange Format and can be imported into a geographic information system (GIS) software package.

- 3.2 Each small-scale radio multiplex licence will be granted for a period of seven years from the commencement of broadcasting, with a further five-year renewal period available. Services must be on air within 18 months of the licence being awarded. This is a legal requirement of the small-scale DAB legislation and successful applicants should expect Ofcom to apply it strictly and to proceed to re-advertise a licence where a service is not launched within 18 months.
- 3.3 At the same time as Ofcom is advertising the Round Two small-scale radio multiplex licences, we are also inviting applications from potential programme service providers who would like to broadcast a Community Digital Sound Programme ('C-DSP') service on any of the small-scale radio

multiplex services for which a licence is being advertised in this document. There is no deadline by which an application for a C-DSP licence must be submitted to Ofcom. This means that the window for making an application for a C-DSP licence for a service to be provided on any of the small-scale radio multiplex services for which a licence is being advertised in Round Two is now 'open' for the foreseeable future. Prospective C-DSP licence applicants should also note that the C-DSP licence application process does not require them to align themselves with one or more applicants for the licence for the small-scale DAB radio multiplex service that they wish to broadcast on and they can, if they so wish, wait until after the small-scale radio multiplex licence has been awarded before submitting a C-DSP licence application. However, we would advise multiplex applicants and potential C-DSP providers to liaise with each other at an early stage as a broadcaster will need a carriage agreement as well as a licence in order to reach its target community.

- 3.4 There is no restriction on an applicant for a small-scale radio multiplex licence also applying for a C-DSP licence to broadcast on that small-scale radio multiplex service (i.e. a small-scale radio multiplex licensee can also broadcast a C-DSP service on its own multiplex). Indeed, one of the matters the legislation requires Ofcom to consider in awarding a small-scale multiplex licence is the desirability of awarding to an applicant who is, or has as a participant, someone proposing to provide a C-DSP service in that locality.
- 3.5 The application forms ([Part A](#) and [Part B](#)) and accompanying [Guidance Notes](#) for C-DSP applicants and licensees are available on Ofcom's website.
- 3.6 Ofcom reserves the right to alter or correct any part of this Notice at any stage before the closing date for applications. Any additional documents referred to in this Notice may also be amended from time to time. Any such alterations, corrections or supplementary information will be made available on our website.
- 3.7 The information given in this Notice is not an exhaustive account of the statutory and licensing requirements and should not be regarded as a complete and authoritative statement of the law. Nor does any information we issue, whether in this Notice or elsewhere, imply any judgement by us as to commercial prospects for the applications, or that licensed services will be profitable.
- 3.8 Applicants must make their own independent assessment after taking their own professional advice and making such further investigations as they deem necessary on all relevant matters.
- 3.9 We make no representation or warranty, expressly or implied, with respect to information contained in this Notice (together with other documents referred to in this Notice as well as any other information we publish related to matters relevant to this Notice, including such information that we may publish in relation to applications received) or with respect to any written or oral information made or to be made available to any potential applicant or its professional advisors. Any liability therefore is expressly disclaimed, and we do not therefore accept liability for any losses, expenses or damage otherwise suffered or incurred as a result of preparing any applications based on or pursuant to this Notice or otherwise relying on information set out herein, whether or not applications are submitted, and whether or not they are successful.

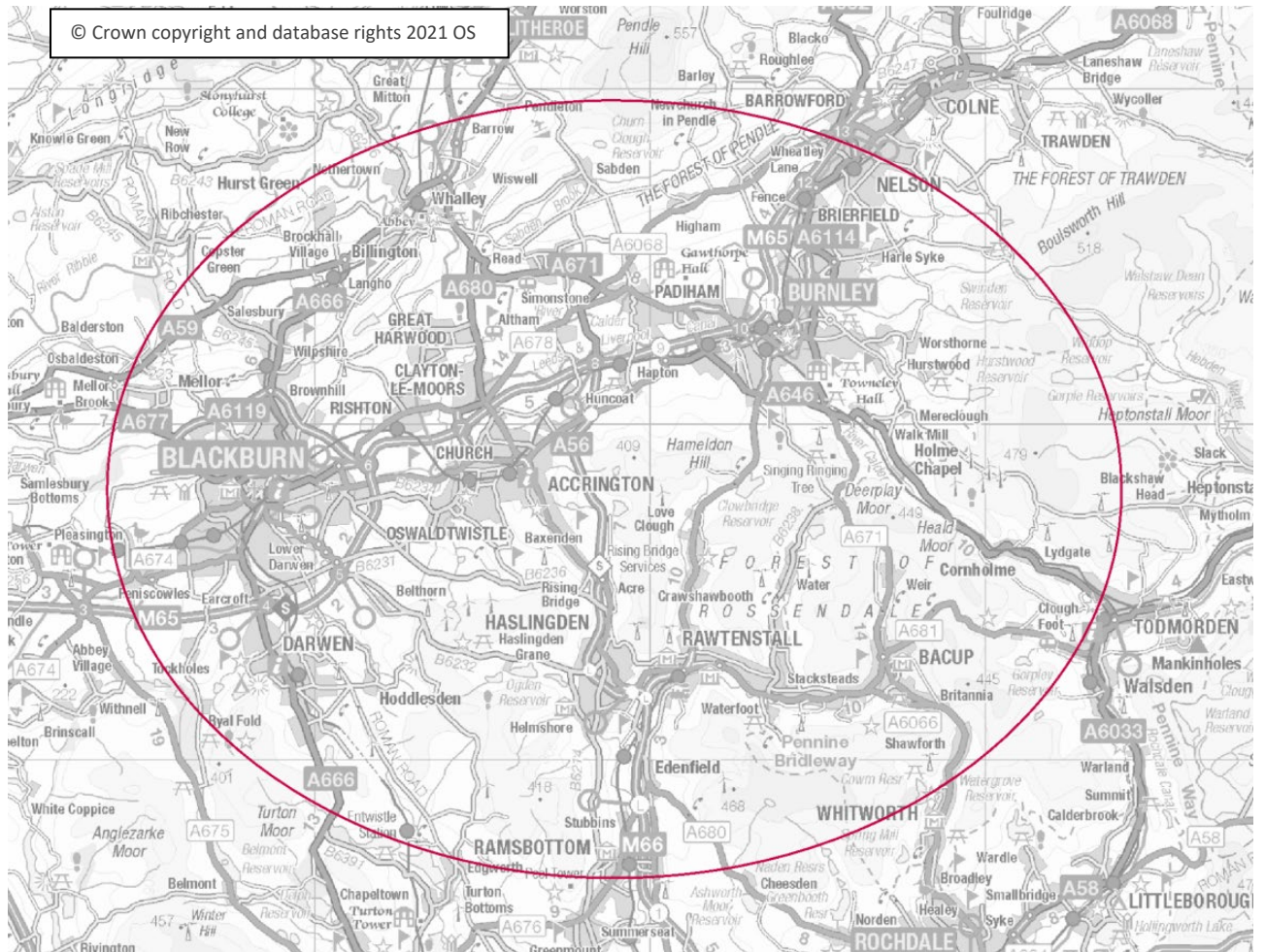
Note on frequency blocks available in the north west England and north east Wales macro area

- 3.10 For some of the advertised areas, in addition to the blocks 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, we have identified that some or all of the frequency blocks 10B, 11B and 11C may also be available for use. The advertisement for each area sets out where this may be possible and lists which of the three additional frequency blocks may be available for use.
- 3.11 Applicants for areas where blocks 10B, 11B or 11C might be used may wish to take this into consideration, and limit the field strength (to a maximum of 29 dB μ V/m) that their proposed transmitter network would present to the local radio multiplex licensed areas listed in the advertisement. Doing so will help maximise the network’s compatibility with whichever frequency block is eventually chosen by Ofcom for use in that area. The local radio multiplex areas operating or planned to operate on frequency blocks 10B, 11B & 11C that will need protecting to a maximum interfering field strength of 29 dB μ V/m are:

Frequency Block	Service
10B	Derbyshire
	East Wales
11B	Bradford & Huddersfield
	Leicestershire
	Morecambe Bay
	Wolverhampton & Shropshire
11C	Birmingham
	Isle of Man
	South Yorkshire

- 3.12 When Ofcom undertakes the final frequency allocation, we will review the interoperability of applicant transmission plans with local radio multiplex services. We will also take into consideration the likely impact of hole-punching from small-scale transmitters using blocks 10B, 11B and 11C.

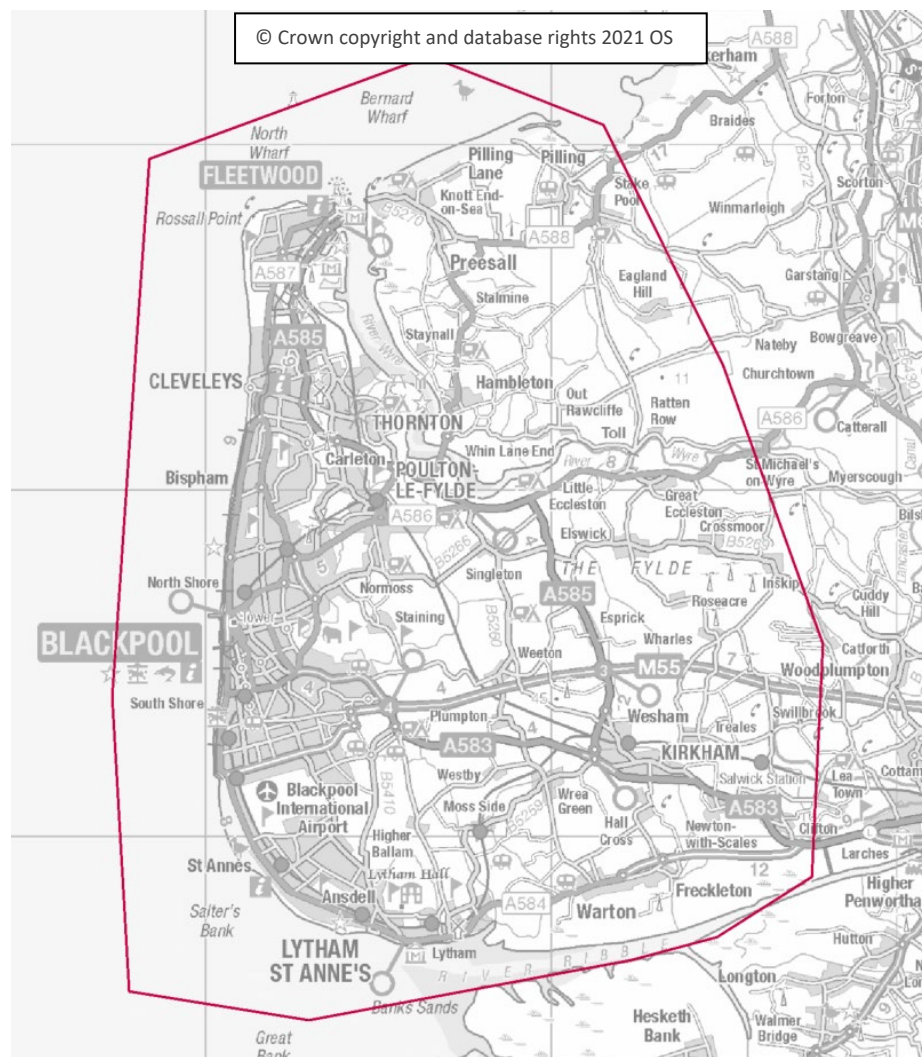
Blackburn, Burnley & Darwen



Blackburn, Burnley & Darwen

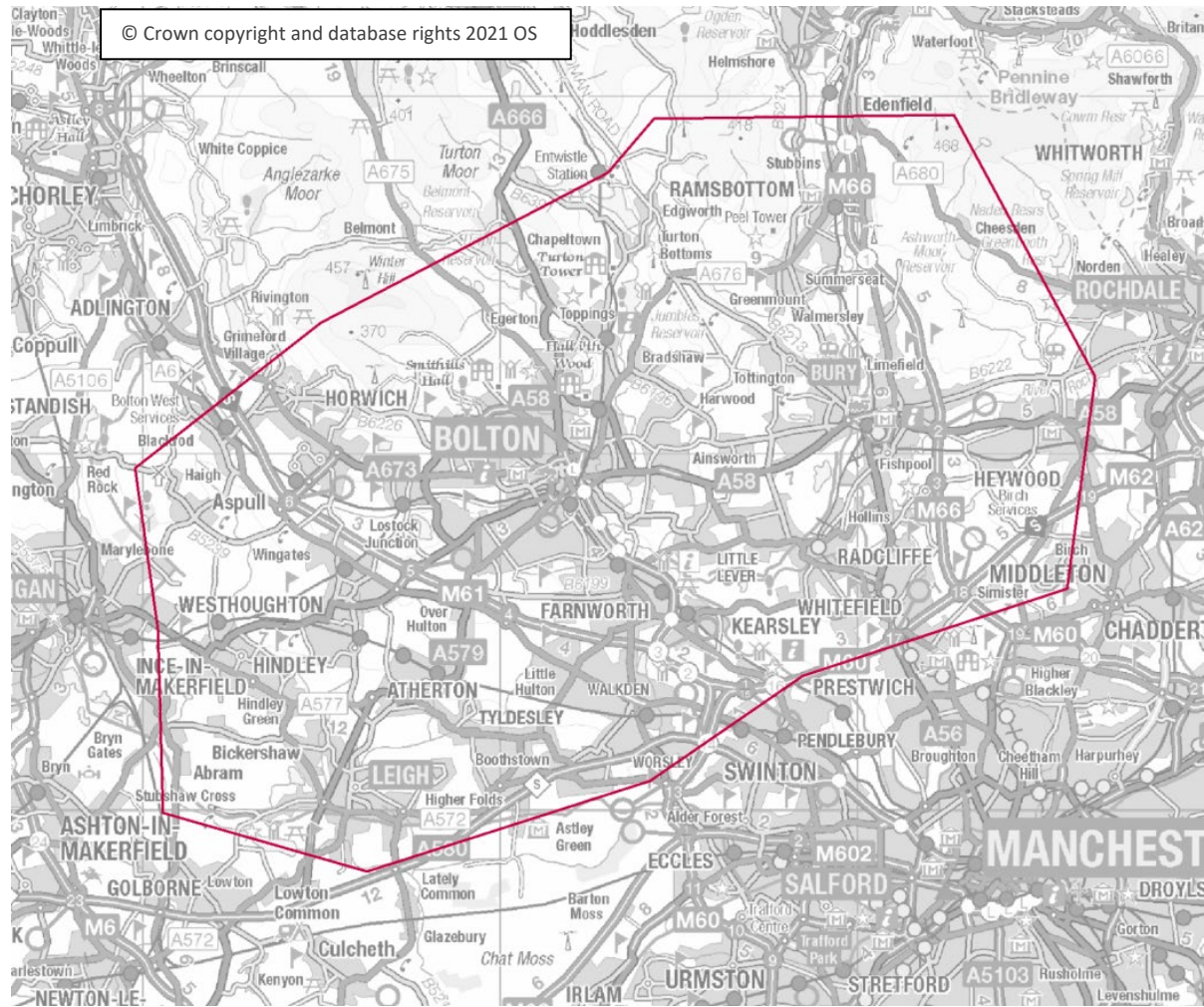
Licence area population	349,992 adults	Size of licence area	545 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	SIX services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Lancashire (1,287,627)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	340,956 (26.5%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	8,482 (0.3%)
Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population)	Bradford (934,540)	Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage)	4,553 (0.2%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 10B	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than some interference to the South Craven, Wharfedale & Worth Valley and Halifax small-scale DAB licence areas the network should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale areas outside of the Macro area. For frequency block 10B see additional information below.
Additional information	<p>The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.</p> <p>For frequency block 10B, 29dBμV/m should not be exceeded into the following local multiplex areas: 10B - Derbyshire LRMS and East Wales LRMS.</p>		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

Blackpool



Licence area population	261,256 adults	Size of licence area	458 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	FOUR services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Lancashire (1,287,627)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	261,256 (20.3%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the Barrow-in-Furness, Lancaster and Kendal & Windermere small-scale DAB licence areas this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

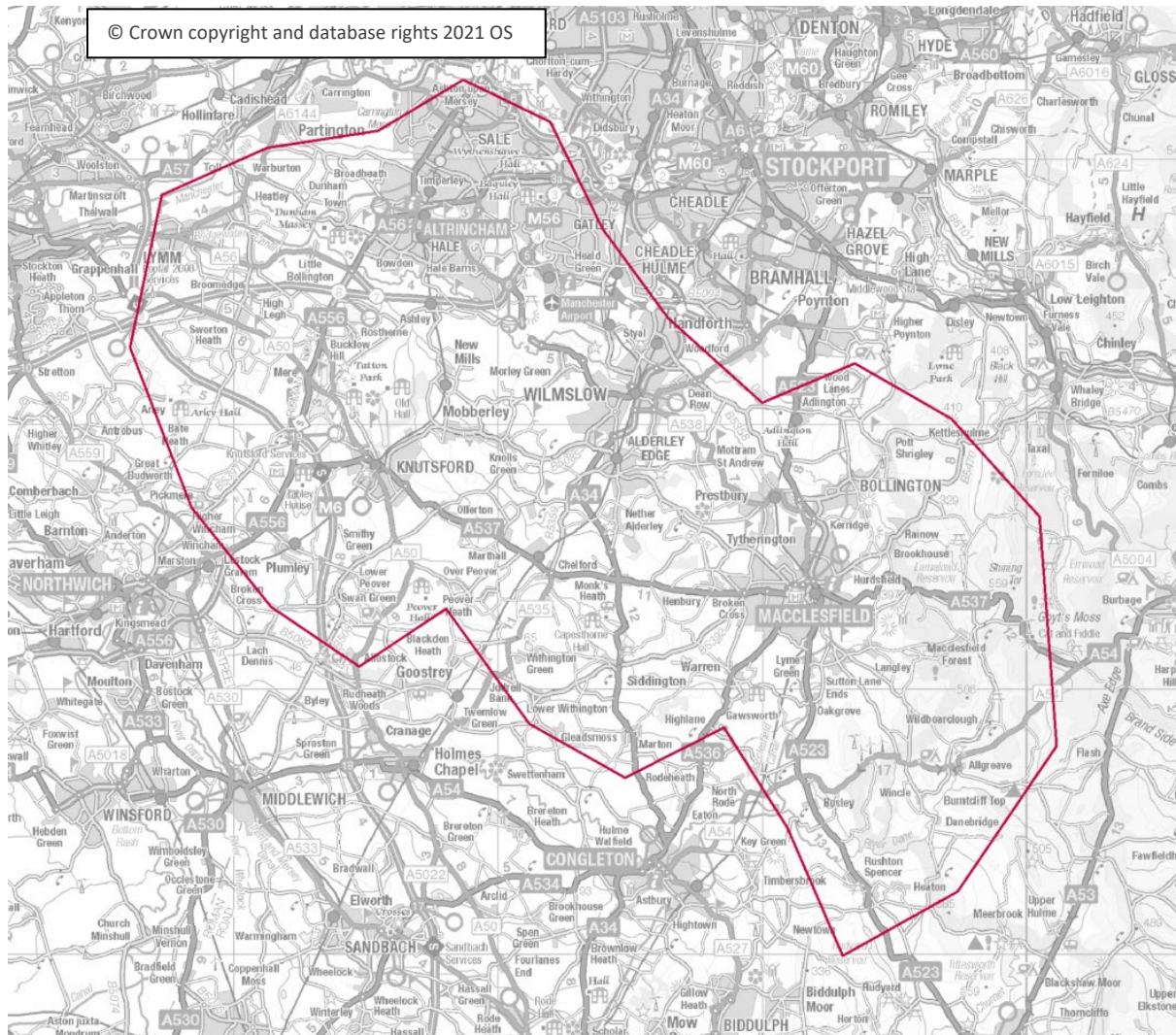
Bolton & Bury



Bolton & Bury

Licence area population	531,805 adults	Size of licence area	385 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	SIX services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Lancashire (1,287,627)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	46,397 (3.6%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	531,805 (20.1%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dBµV/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

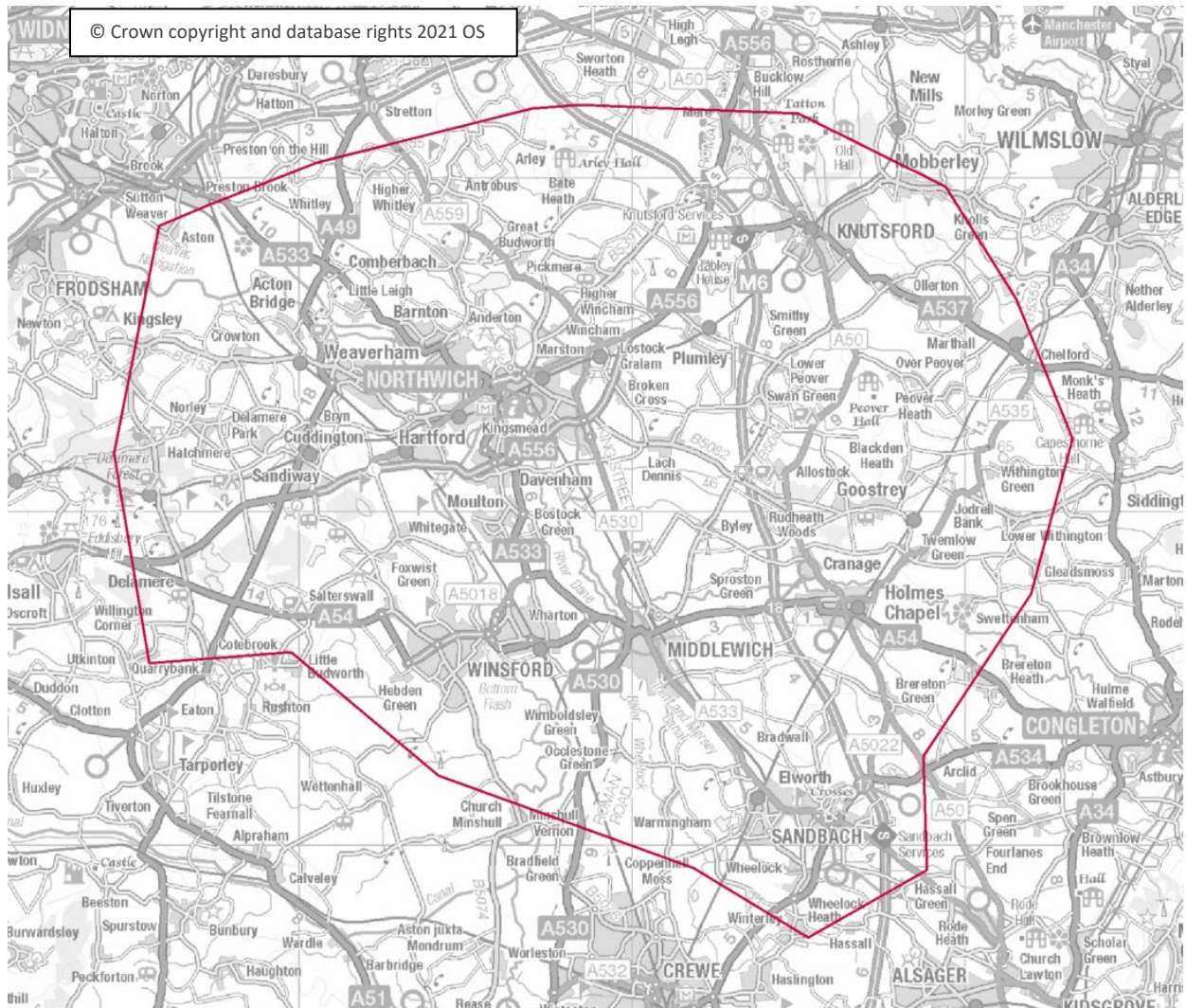
Cheshire (East)



Cheshire (East)

Cheshire (East)	284,670 adults	Size of licence area	604 km ²
Cheshire (East)	FIVE Services		
Cheshire (East)	Stoke-on-Trent (957,883)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	116,436 (12.2%)
Cheshire (East)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	284,007 (10.8%)
Cheshire (East)	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dBµV/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Cheshire (East)	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Cheshire (East)	Population data for this region		

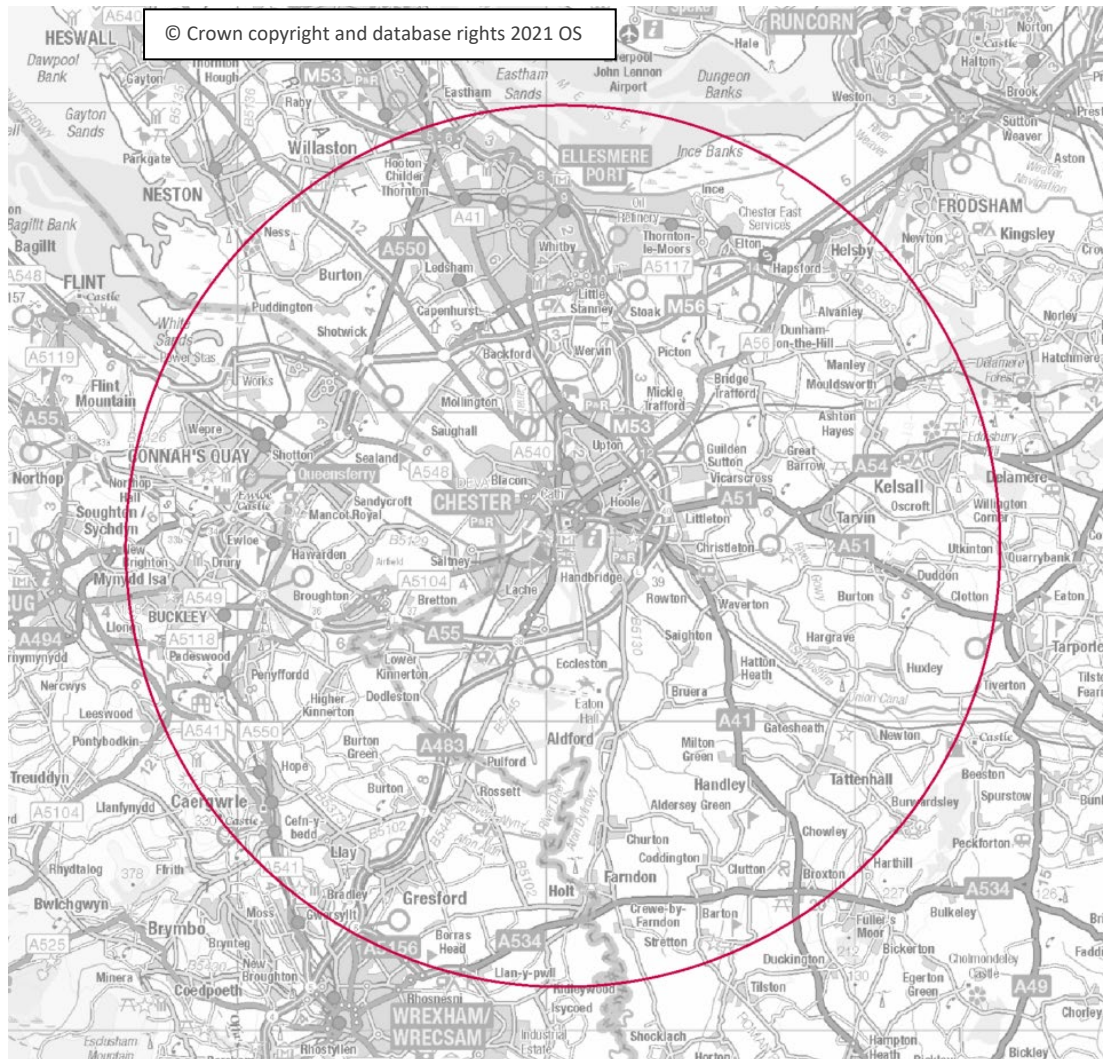
Cheshire (Mid)



Cheshire (Mid)

Licence area population	139,842 adults	Size of licence area	508 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	THREE services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Stoke-on-Trent (957,883)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	137,144 (14.3%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	85,886 (3.3%)
Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population)	Liverpool (1,868,201)	Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage)	2,698 (0.1%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dBµV/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

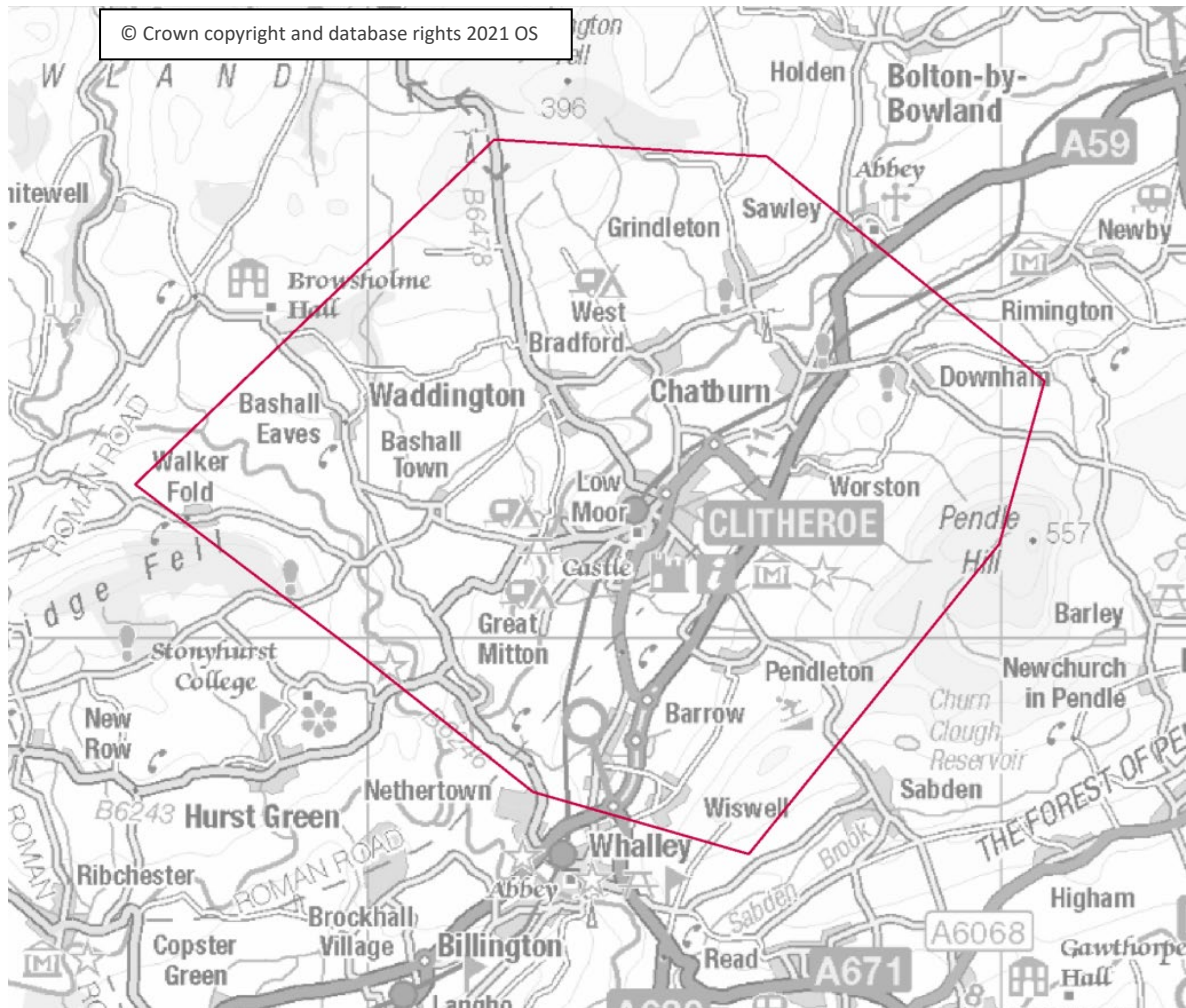
Chester & Ellesmere Port



Chester & Ellesmere Port

Licence area population	235,408 adults	Size of licence area	619 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	FOUR Services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Liverpool (1,868,201)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	202,959 (10.9%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	North east Wales & west Cheshire (754,880)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	230,065 (30.5%)
Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population)	Stoke-on-Trent (957,883)	Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage)	238 (0.02%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 10B	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area. For frequency block 10B see additional information below.
Additional information	<p>The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.</p> <p>For frequency block 10B, 29dBμV/m should not be exceeded into the following local multiplex areas: Derbyshire LRMS and East Wales LRMS.</p>		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

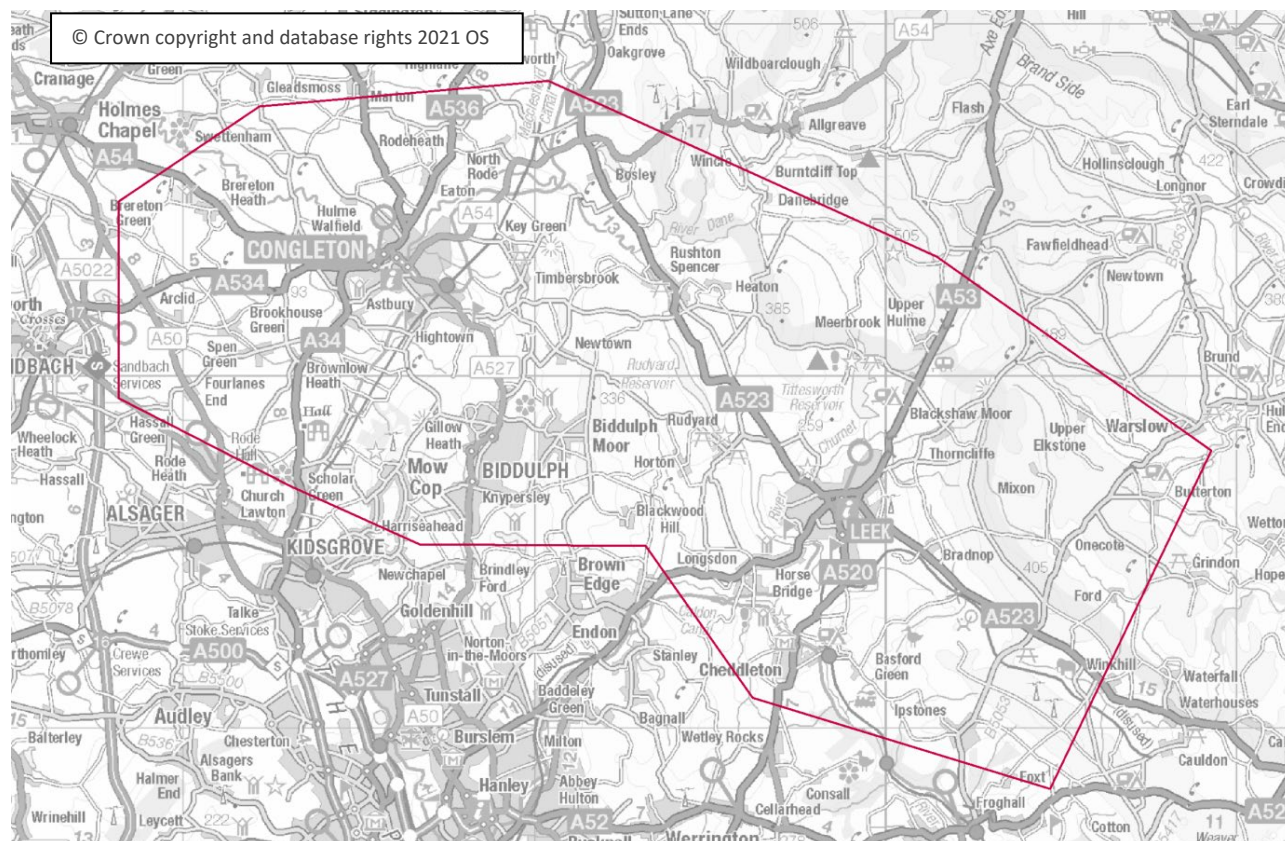
Clitheroe



Clitheroe

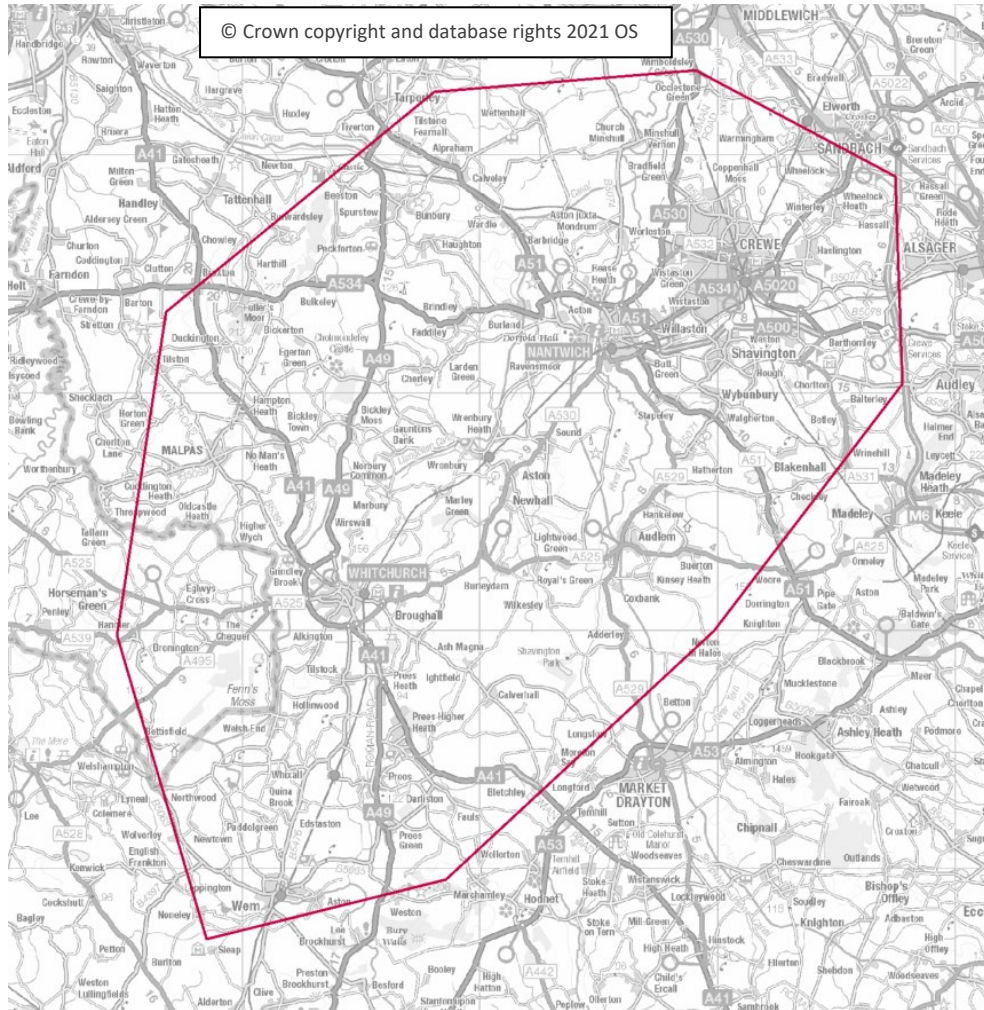
Licence area population	17,486 adults	Size of licence area	100 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	THREE services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Lancashire (1,287,627)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	17,486 (1.4%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 10B , 11B , 11C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the western parts of the South Craven, Wharfedale & Worth Valley small-scale DAB licence area this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dBµV/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area. For frequency blocks 10B, 11B & 11C see additional information below.
Additional information	<p>The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.</p> <p>For frequency blocks 10B, 11B, & 11C, 29dBµV/m should not be exceeded into the following local multiplex areas: 10B - Derbyshire LRMS and East Wales; 11B - Bradford & Huddersfield LRMS, Leicestershire LRMS, Morecambe Bay LRMS and Wolverhampton & Shropshire LRMS; 11C - Birmingham LRMS, Isle of Man and South Yorkshire LRMS.</p>		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

Congleton & Leek



Licence area population	71,832 adults	Size of licence area	356 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	THREE services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Stoke-on-Trent (957,883)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	71,832 (7.5%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	858 (0.03%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the Burton-on-Trent, North Powys and Telford & Shrewsbury small-scale DAB licence areas this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dBµV/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

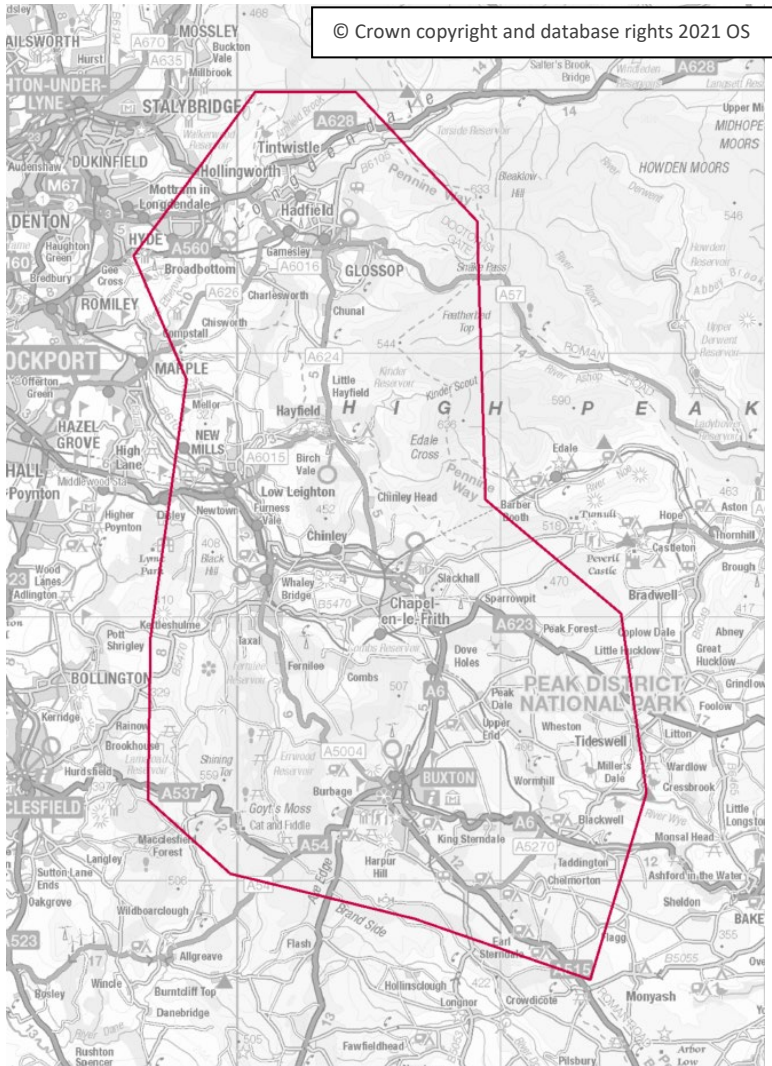
Crewe, Nantwich & Whitchurch



Crewe, Nantwich & Whitchurch

Licence area population	131,761 adults	Size of licence area	812 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	THREE services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Stoke-on-Trent (957,883)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	106,209 (11.1%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	North east Wales & west Cheshire (754,880)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	5,532 (0.7%)
Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population)	Wolverhampton & Shropshire (1,317,388)	Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage)	20,020 (1.5%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the North Powys and Telford & Shrewsbury small-scale DAB licence areas this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

Glossop & Buxton



Glossop & Buxton

Licence area population	88,100 adults	Size of licence area	433 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	THREE services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Derbyshire (647,026)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	22,619 (3.5%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	65,481 (2.5%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the Chesterfield and western parts of the Barnsley and Sheffield & Rotherham small-scale DAB licence areas this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

Liverpool



Licence area population	626,682 adults	Size of licence area	263 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	SIX services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Liverpool (1,868,201)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	626,682 (33.5%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dBµV/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

Manchester



Manchester

Licence area population	852,714 adults	Size of licence area	274 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	NINE services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	852,714 (32.3%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 10B, 11C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area. For frequency blocks 10B & 11C see additional information below.
Additional information	<p>The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.</p> <p>For frequency blocks 10B & 11C, 29dBμV/m should not be exceeded into the following local multiplex areas: 10B - Derbyshire LRMS and East Wales; 11C - Birmingham LRMS, Isle of Man and South Yorkshire LRMS.</p>		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

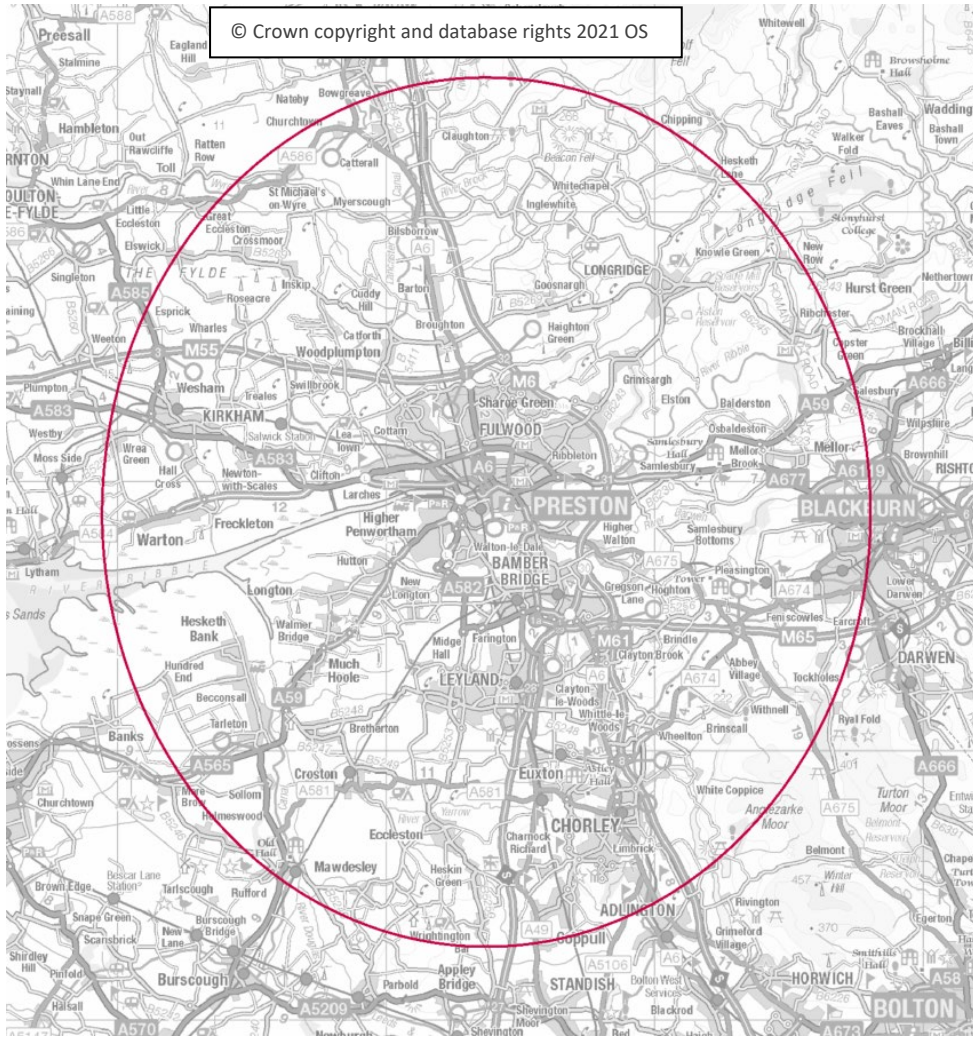
Oldham & Rochdale



Oldham & Rochdale

Licence area population	547,423 adults	Size of licence area	370 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	SIX services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Lancashire (1,287,627)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	5,931 (0.5%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	546,275 (20.7%)
Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population)	Bradford (934,504)	Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage)	1,148 (0.1%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 10B, 11C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area. For frequency blocks 10B & 11C see additional information below.
Additional information	<p>The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.</p> <p>For frequency blocks 10B, 11B, & 11C, 29dBμV/m should not be exceeded into the following local multiplex areas: 10B - Derbyshire LRMS and East Wales; 11C - Birmingham LRMS, Isle of Man and South Yorkshire LRMS.</p>		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

Preston



Preston

Licence area population	370,103 adults	Size of licence area	710 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	SIX services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Lancashire (1,287,627)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	370,103 (28.7%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Liverpool (1,868,201)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	2,523 (0.1%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the Barrow-in-Furness, Lancaster and western parts of South Craven, Wharfedale & Worth Valley small-scale DAB licence areas this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dBµV/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

Rhyl, Ruthin & Mold



Rhyl, Ruthin & Mold

Licence area population	168,715 adults	Size of licence area	1,051 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	FOUR services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	North east Wales & west Cheshire (754,880)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	159,502 (21.1%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Liverpool (1,868,201)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	74,646 (4.0%)
Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population)	North West Wales (362,319)	Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage)	64,829 (17.9%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 10B	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the Anglesey & North Gwynedd, Llandudno & Betws-y-Coed and North Powys small-scale DAB licence areas this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area. For frequency block 10B see additional information below.
Additional information	<p>The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.</p> <p>For frequency block 10B, 29dBμV/m should not be exceeded into the following local multiplex areas: Derbyshire LRMS and East Wales LRMS.</p>		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

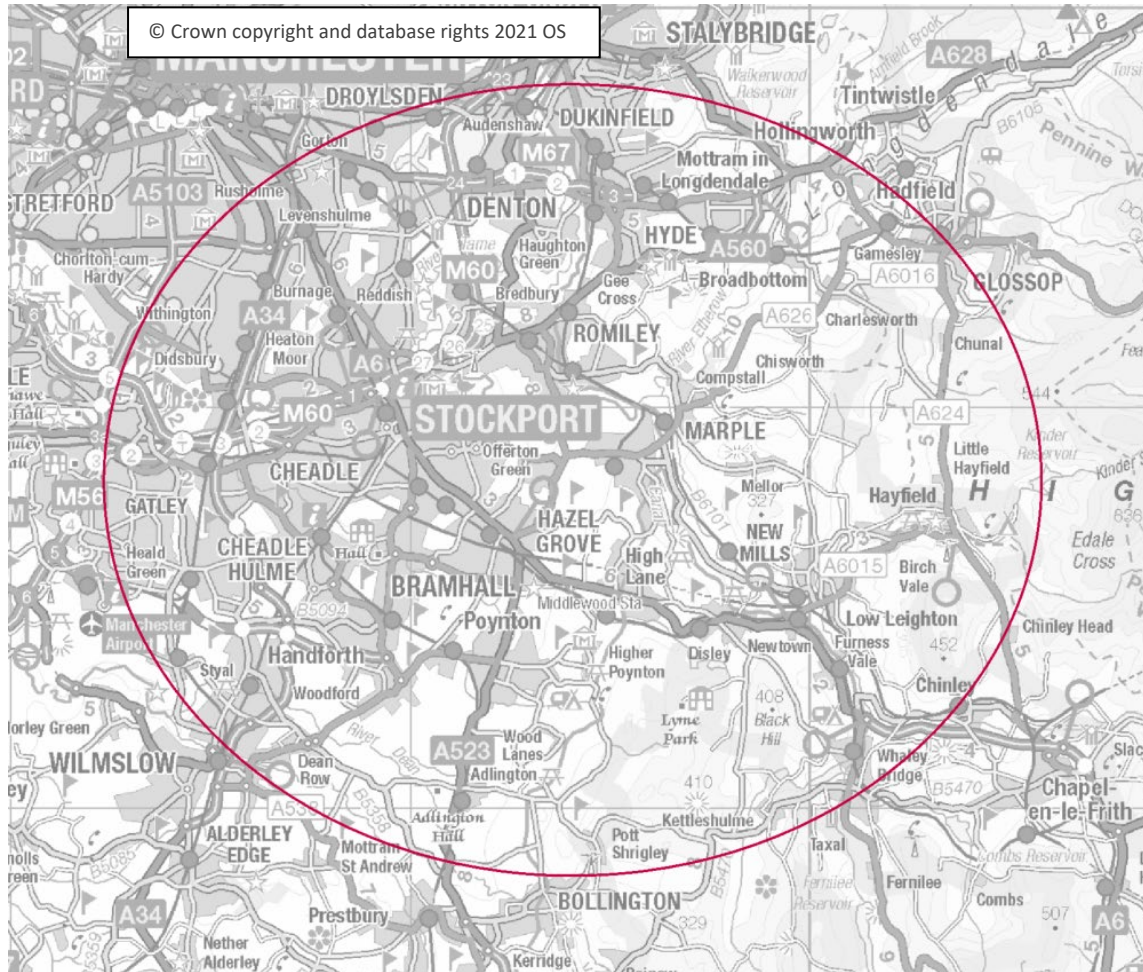
Southport



Southport

Licence area population	185,997 adults	Size of licence area	599 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	FOUR services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Lancashire (1,287,627)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	13,307 (1.0%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Liverpool (1,868,201)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	184,991 (9.9%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

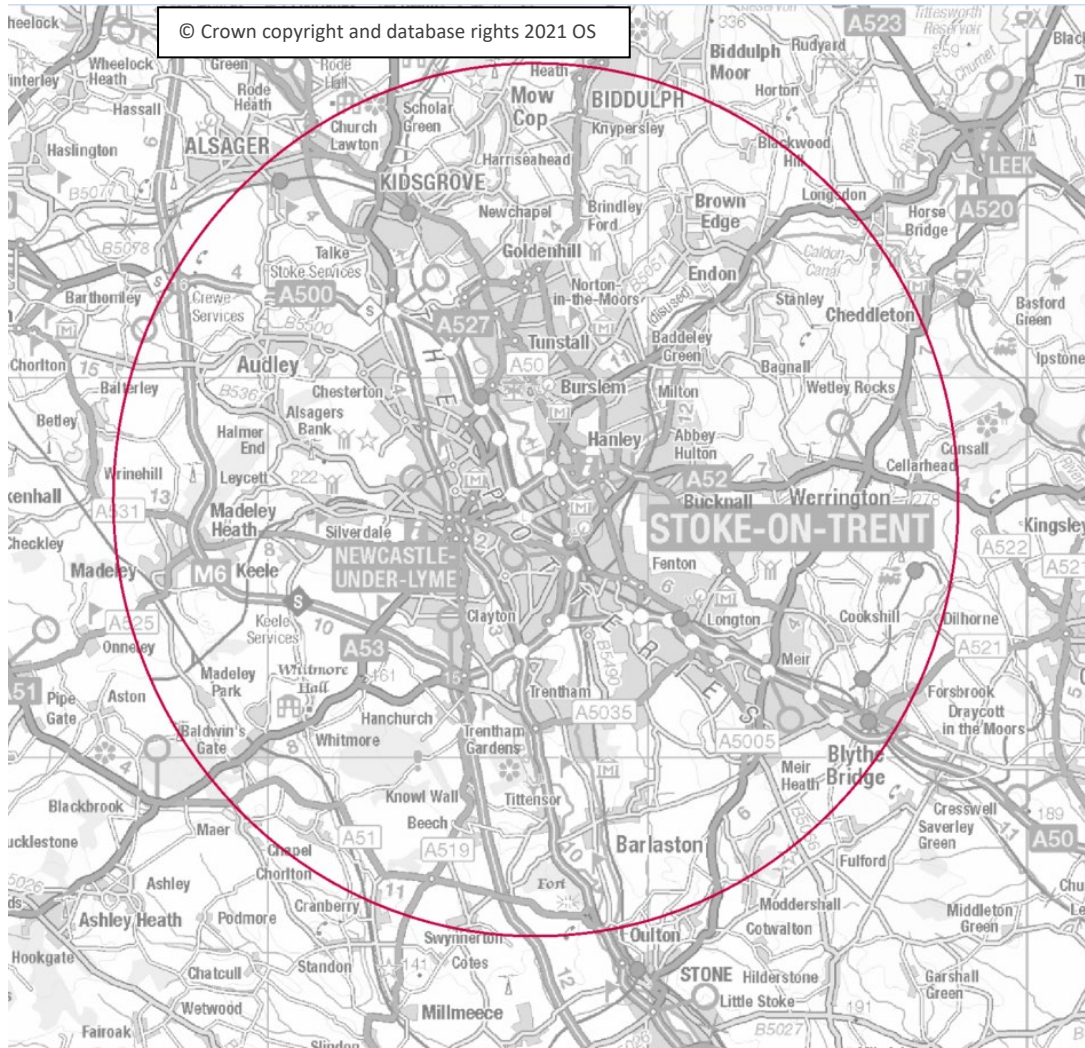
Stockport



Stockport

Licence area population	528,832 adults	Size of licence area	362 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	SIX services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Stoke-on-Trent (957,883)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	14,611 (1.5%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	528,832 (20.0%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 11C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area. For frequency block 11C see additional information below.
Additional information	<p>The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.</p> <p>For frequency block 11C, 29dBμV/m should not be exceeded into the following local multiplex areas: Birmingham LRMS, Isle of Man and South Yorkshire LRMS.</p>		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

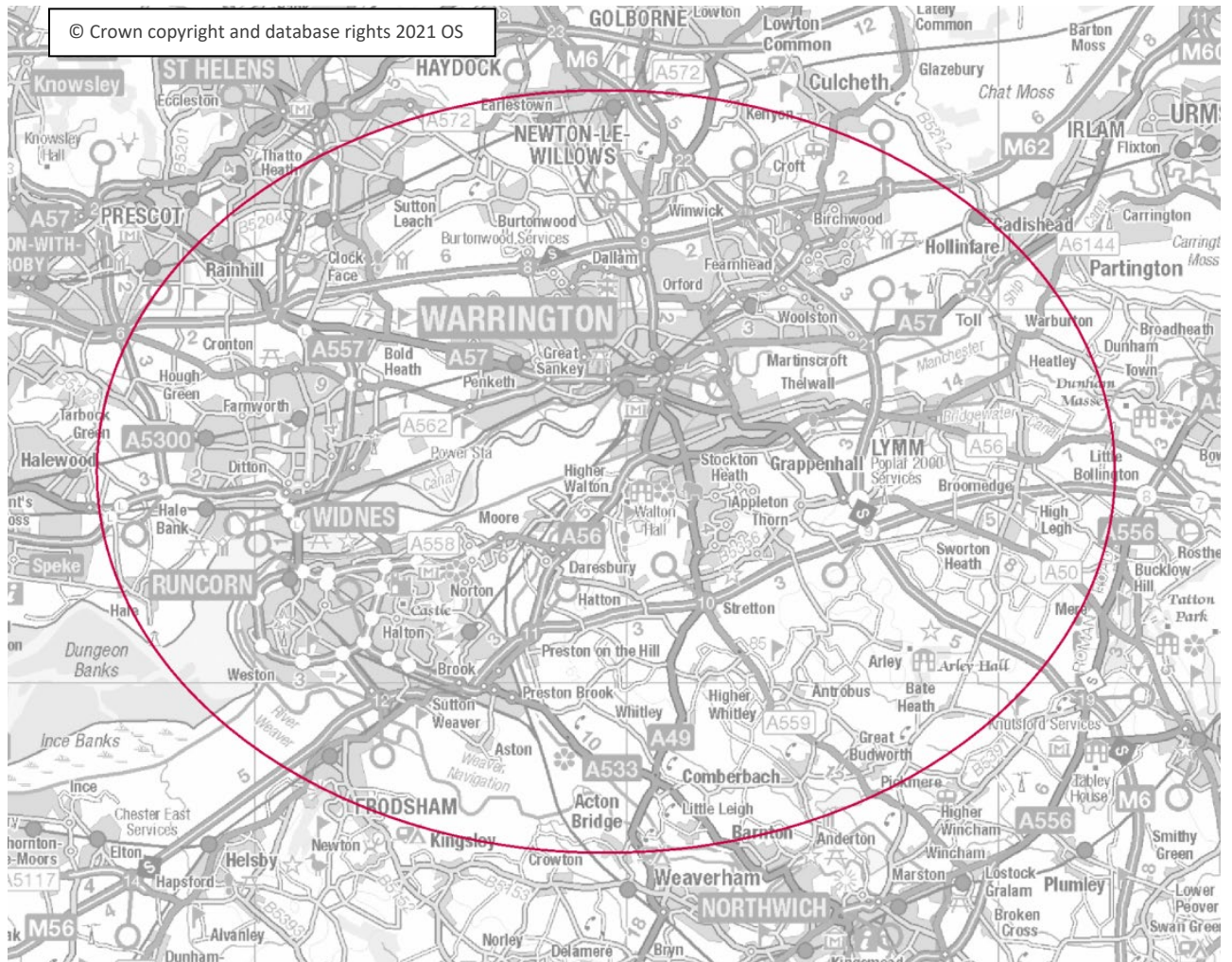
Stoke & Newcastle-under-Lyme



Stoke & Newcastle-under-Lyme

Licence area population	349,389 adults	Size of licence area	398 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	SIX services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Stoke-on-Trent (957,883)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	349,389 (36.5%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the Burton-on-Trent, Wolverhampton and Telford & Shrewsbury small-scale DAB licence areas this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

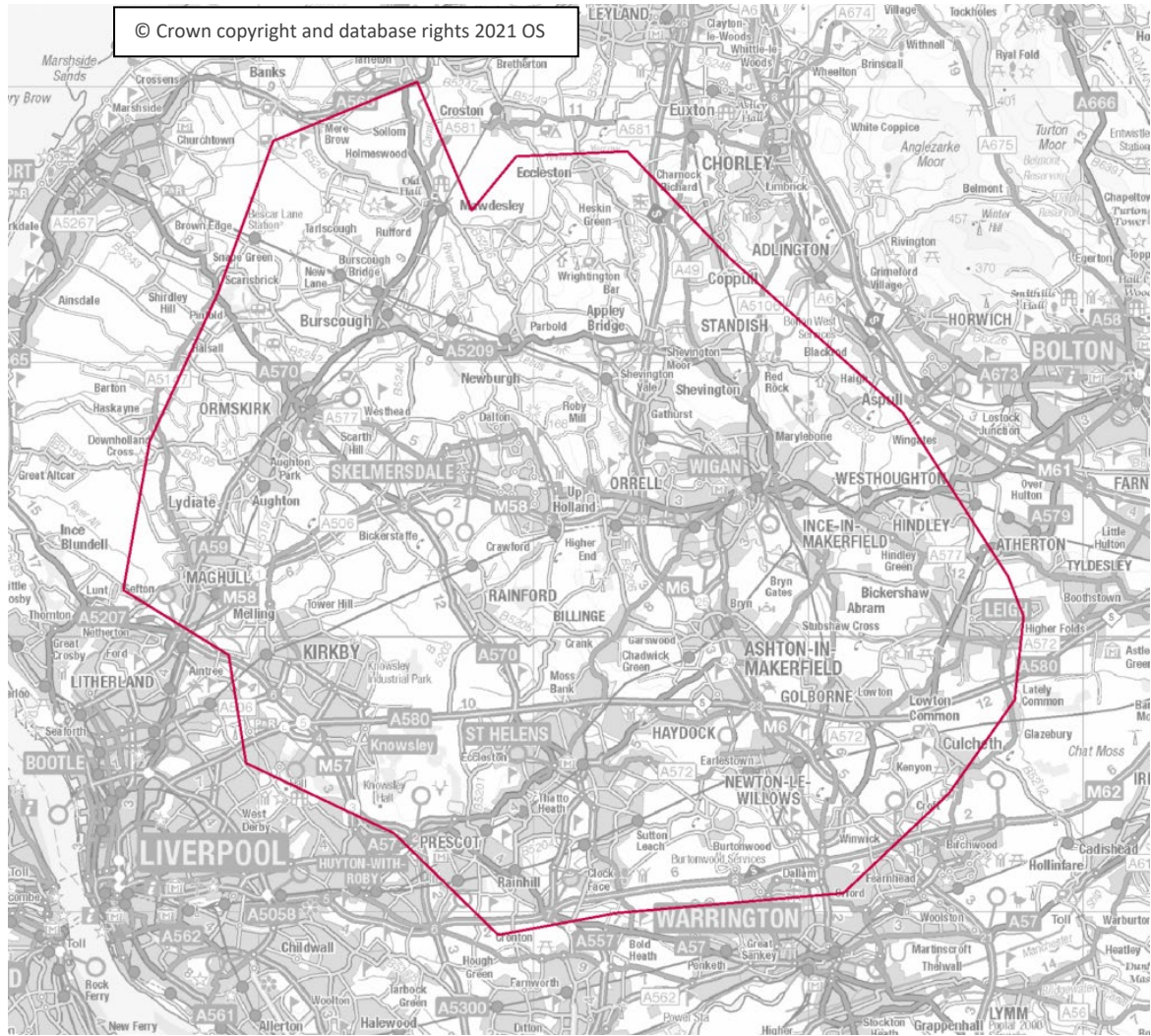
Warrington, Widnes & Runcorn



Warrington, Widnes & Runcorn

Licence area population	322,489 adults	Size of licence area	431 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	FIVE services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Stoke-on-Trent (957,883)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	4,442 (0.5%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Liverpool (1,868,201)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	293,727 (15.7%)
Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage)	178,220 (6.7%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

Wigan



Wigan

Licence area population	577,031 adults	Size of licence area	668 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	FOUR services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Lancashire (1,287,627)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	140,816 (10.9%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	Liverpool (1,868,201)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	451,200 (24.2%)
Local DAB service 3 (and licence area population)	Manchester (2,640,392)	Local DAB service 3 population overlap (and percentage)	280,280 (10.6%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	This service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

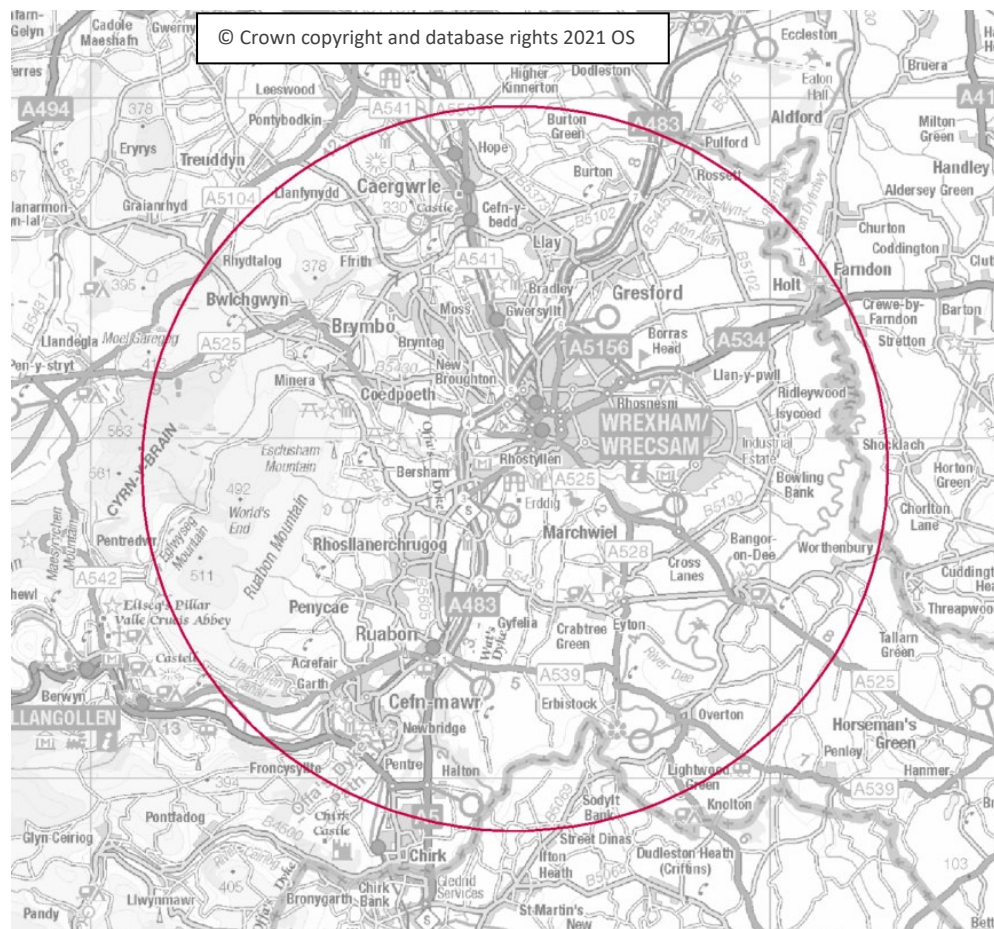
Wirral



Wirral

Licence area population	280,633 adults	Size of licence area	258 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	FIVE services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	Liverpool (1,868,201)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	280,633 (15.0%)
Local DAB service 2 (and licence area population)	North east Wales & west Cheshire (754,879)	Local DAB service 2 population overlap (and percentage)	280,633 (37.2%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the Llandudno & Betws-y-Coed small-scale DAB licence area this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dB μ V/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

Wrexham



Licence area population	109,973 adults	Size of licence area	366 km ²
Reserved C-DSP capacity	THREE services		
Local DAB service 1 (and licence area population)	North east Wales & west Cheshire (754,880)	Local DAB service 1 population overlap (and percentage)	109,973 (14.6%)
Proposed frequency block	One of: 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C	Co-block small-scale DAB licence areas and/or local multiplexes	Other than to the North Powys and Telford & Shrewsbury small-scale DAB licence areas this service should not cause any significant interference above 38 dBµV/m to other small-scale DAB areas outside of the Macro area.
Additional information	The transmitter network for this service should be designed to minimise the interference to other proposed licences within the Macro area it is part of.		
Licence area data for this region		Population data for this region	

4. How to apply

Submission of application form and fees

- 4.1 Applications for any of the small-scale radio multiplex licences advertised in this document must be made using the small-scale radio multiplex licence application form. Note that the application form is divided into two parts – ‘[Part A](#)’ (which we will publish on our website), and ‘[Part B](#)’ which will remain confidential. For applicants wishing to apply – subject to the ownership restrictions – for more than one small-scale radio multiplex licence, a separate application form will be required for each application.
- 4.2 Prior to completing an application, it is essential that applicants should read extremely carefully the [Notes of Guidance](#) on small-scale radio multiplex licences. In addition to providing further information about the questions we ask in the application form, the Notes of Guidance provide a detailed guide to the small-scale DAB multiplex licensing regime as a whole, including matters such as the ownership restrictions, the statutory assessment criteria and how Ofcom will interpret these criteria in our assessment of applications.
- 4.3 The closing-date for the receipt of completed small-scale radio multiplex licence application forms, and other required documentation, is **5pm on Wednesday 01 September 2021**. Both the confidential and non-confidential parts of the application form should be sent by e-mail to: broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk. The subject line of the e-mail should be clearly labelled as “[Applicant name] application for SSDAB mux licence: [licence area].” The deadline for receipt of applications will be strictly enforced, so you are advised to submit your application in plenty of time to allow for any potential delivery problems. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged via an automated e-mail from the Broadcast Licensing team.
- 4.4 An application fee of **£500** will be payable for each small-scale radio multiplex licence application submitted. This fee will not be refundable in any circumstances. Electronic bank transfer payments must be received in Ofcom’s bank account no later than five working days after the application form has been received by Ofcom. Similarly, if paying by cheque, we must receive the cheque within five days of our receipt of the application. Failure to comply with these requirements may render the application liable to disqualification. Full details of how to make the application fee payment can be found in the ‘Application fee’ section in the [Notes of Guidance](#) on small-scale radio multiplex licences.

Assessment process

- 4.5 Ofcom will assess applications against both our general duties and the specific statutory assessment criteria (as reproduced and expanded upon in the Notes of Guidance), and based upon the proposals presented in the completed application form. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the submitted application is complete, with every question responded to (or, where appropriate, marked ‘Not applicable’) and all additional information required (such as the technical plan) provided in addition to the application form. Once received, no material amendments to the application may be made by the applicant nor any new material

introduced, without the agreement of Ofcom. Ofcom will not agree to any such amendment which it considers would be unfair to any other applicant for the licence.

- 4.6 In the course of assessing applications, Ofcom may seek clarification and/or amplification of proposals in any application and require the applicant to provide us with additional information.
- 4.7 All of the non-confidential ('Part A') sections of the application forms that we receive will be published on our website following the closing-date for applications. In assessing the applications, Ofcom may take into account any comments received from the public, which can be made to it at smallscaleDAB@ofcom.org.uk with respect to the applications submitted.
- 4.8 Our aim is to consider all applications for the advertised small-scale radio multiplex licences within six months of submission, although this is subject to, among other things, the number of applications submitted for all of the licences we have advertised in Round Two.
- 4.9 Ofcom does not necessarily expect to be able to award licences for every area being advertised in the north west England and north east Wales macro area. Consequently, we will need to plan the spectrum carefully with a view to licensing as many services as possible, and therefore we expect to inform all successful applicants at the same time.
- 4.10 However, if there are any areas within the macro area not affected by frequency shortages (for example, because we receive no applications for some of the other areas we have advertised) it may prove possible to announce these awards earlier .
- 4.11 Once a licence award decision has been made and applicants have been informed, Ofcom will publish the key determining factors which led to our decision.