

Annie Morgan

Dear Mr Davies

I would like to make some comments on your proposals on the future of DAB radio. I do not have a TV so rely entirely on radio. I feel the public interest would be best served by increasing the bit rates on broadcasts. This is of course in line with most other countries. The interests of commercial radio stations should not be a consideration. Your proposals seem to serve mostly commercial interests. I purchased my DAB radio on the advertising promise that this was a better sound quality. This has proved not to be the case mostly. The possibility of reducing bit rates would make things worse. I also draw your attention to the recent decision on the licence fee, and the instruction by the government that the BBC should concentrate on public service, not commercial programming. Public service broadcasts should be paramount, which have little commercial value. The majority of listeners tune in to BBC broadcasts. Your proposals would work against public service broadcasts, which of course almost entirely originate from the BBC. The inclusion agenda would not be served by your proposals. They may be viewed as ageist and not in the interests of the visually impaired. This would also operate against the government agenda of lifelong education and social inclusion by these means. Commercial radio stations attract mostly very young listeners, and the visually impaired gain a great deal from radio, as they obviously cannot watch TV. Ofcom is a publicly funded body which should represent the public interest. None of your proposals seem to attempt this and do not put this as the overriding principle.

Yours sincerely

Annie Morgan