

Community Radio Network
C/O NLive Radio
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The Rt. Hon. Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
secretary.statesoffice@culture.gov.uk

29th April 2020

CC: John Whittingdale, Ian O'Neill - DCMS, Dame Melanie Dawes - CEO Ofcom

Re: Changes to the Community Radio Fund

Dear Mr. Dowden,

Whilst we welcome the redirection of the Community Radio Fund to enable stations to receive support in this difficult time, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that, as it has currently been presented, the amount of funding available has not been increased. Given this, how many of the 296 licensed and broadcasting Ofcom Community Radio stations would actually be likely to receive funding? It could make it akin to a lottery.

We also want to raise concern that 'redirection' suggests that this would be the only funding available for this year. This would mean that nothing more would be available from the Community Radio Fund until June 2021, assuming the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport decides to continue the fund.

The DCMS needs to support Community Radio in this time, and we call on ministers to provide additional funding to prevent possible station closures and the huge loss that would be for local communities in the shorter and longer-term."

Yours sincerely,



Nathan Spackman
Bro Radio



Martin Steers
NLive Radio



Barry Clack
Witney Radio

On behalf of:

101.8 WCR FM
106.9 SFM
ABBEY 104
AIR 107.2
Apple FM Taunton
Bro Radio
Burgess Hill

Cabin FM
CANDO FM
Chelmsford Community Radio
Corby Radio 96.3fm
EAVA FM
Erewash Sound
ExmouthAiR Radio
First FM
Future Radio
Gaydio Brighton
Harborough FM
Heartland FM
Hull kingston Radio
Juice103.8
Keith Community Radio
Koast Radio 106.6fm
Maritime Radio
Marlow FM
Mearns FM
Meridian FM
Mighty Radio
NLive Radio
Nova FM
Penistone FM
Phoenix FM
Radio Newark
Radio St Austell Bay
Radio Verulam
RadioReverb
Ribble FM
Sheppey FM
Somerset Valley FM
Spark
Stafford FM
Sunshine 1049
Susy Radio
Switch Radio
TD1 Radio
Uckfield Community Radio
Vanny Radio
West Somerset Radio
Westside Radio
Wey Valley Radio Alton
Witney Radio
Zetland FM