

Dear MCRG Members.

Happy New Year to you all!

Next Meeting will be this Thursday in the Community Centre at 19:30.

On Monday Ian, Charlie and I started filling out the licence application form. We still have no news when the next round of applications will be accepted. The original plan from OFCOM was one every year starting in 2004. But there was no round last year! However we need to be ready when it happens as there will be only six weeks from the announcement to the closing date.

For this meeting I'd like us to do two things:

1. Think about the following section from the application form, and hopefully we will come up with a good response!

SECTION SIX – Social Gain, Accountability and Access to Station.

Every applicant for a community radio service must demonstrate that the proposed service would be provided primarily for the good of members of the public, or of the target community, and in order to deliver social gain. Applicants must provide evidence that their proposed service would result in the delivery of significant social gain to the public, or the target community. In addition, when deciding whether or to whom to award a community radio licence, one of the criteria to which Ofcom must have regard is the extent to which the proposed service would result in the delivery of social gain to the target community. The Community Radio Order lists four mandatory social gain objectives and a further (non-exhaustive) list of seven other social gain objectives that may be applicable.

Please use the first three questions in this section (boxes 6.1 to 6.3) to answer general questions about how the applicant proposes to serve its target community.

Explain (in boxes 6.4 to 6.7 below) how you propose to meet the four mandatory social gain objectives and explain (in box 6.8 below) what additional social gain objectives (if any) you intend to include as social gain objectives for your proposed service. For each of the objectives, please specify the nature of the targets involved and outline how you expect these to be achieved.

In addition to social gain objectives, when considering applications, Ofcom is required to have regard to various underlying characteristics which define community radio services, some of which are relevant to this section of the application form, (boxes 6.9 and 6.10 below).

In addition to the social gain objective concerning training for members of the target community or the wider public (box 6.6), the Community Radio order 2004 contains a further, slightly different, reference to training as a selection criterion. Ofcom is required to have regard to provision of training in the use of station facilities by members of the target community.

Finally, this section of the application form also gives applicants the opportunity to detail other forms of community involvement (boxes 6.12 to 6.14).

2. 2. We'd like to do a pilot programme for the web site, and the idea we have come up with is to do a programme base on Archie Watt's book about Stonehaven. Ian will bring along a copy and we can perhaps come up with some ideas on how to actually create a series based on his book.

Meetings dates:

19th Jan 2006

16th Feb 2006

16th Mar 2006

20th April 2006

Regards

Stuart

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