Invitation of applications for community radio licences: GUERNSEY

Publication date: 3 December 2013
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Section 1

Introduction

1.1 Ofcom, in accordance with section 104(1) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (“the 1990 Act”) (as amended by the Communications Act 2003 and as modified by the Community Radio (Guernsey) Order 2013), invites applications for licences to provide community radio services in the Bailiwick of Guernsey comprising Guernsey, Alderney and Sark (“Guernsey”). These licences are being offered for the provision of services on either the FM (VHF) waveband or the AM (medium wave) band, for an initial maximum period of five years from the commencement of broadcasting.

1.2 No applications may be made in relation to any areas or localities outside Guernsey.

1.3 The closing-date for the receipt of completed applications will be 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 26 March 2014. A non-refundable fee of £600 will be payable for each application submitted and considered.
Section 2

Commercial revenues & frequencies

On-air commercial revenues

2.1 Under the Community Radio (Guernsey) Order 2013, licensees may include advertising and sponsorship revenues within their sources of income.

2.2 In deciding to whom and on what terms to grant a community radio licence Ofcom must have regard to the need to ensure that any service provided under that licence does not prejudice unduly the economic viability of any other local service (by virtue of section 105 of the 1990 Act, as modified by the Community Radio (Guernsey) Order 2013). As a result, in some circumstances Ofcom may set limits on income from remunerated advertisements and/or sponsorship, where this is for the purposes of ensuring that the economic viability of any other local radio service is not unduly prejudiced.

2.3 The only "other local radio service" of relevance to this restriction is local commercial radio service Island FM. Information about this service, including its licensed coverage area, can be found on our website: http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/html/radio-stations/analogue/al000142ba1islandfm.htm.

Frequency availability

2.4 We expect to be able to consider licensing services utilising either FM or AM (medium wave) frequencies. However, the availability of suitable FM frequencies will be constrained by this area’s proximity to France.
Section 3

Guidelines and procedures for submission of applications

3.1 The application form and other relevant documentation may be obtained from the Ofcom website at http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/radio-broadcast-licensing/community-radio/apply-for-licence/guernsey. It comprises:

- An application form, and
- ‘Notes of guidance for community radio licence applicants and licensees: Guernsey’.

3.2 If you have any queries these can be addressed to Ofcom’s community radio team by email at community.radio@ofcom.org.uk (or by post: Community Radio Licensing, 5th Floor, Ofcom, Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA).

3.3 The completed application form should be submitted by email, in either Word (.doc) or RTF format, to community.radio@ofcom.org.uk. We do not require a paper copy of the completed document (although if any of the permissible supporting documentation is only available as paper copies, these should be sent to the address given in 3.2 above). At least one typed copy of an application in English should be submitted.

3.4 One electronic copy of a completed application form and any paper copies of the permissible supporting documentation must be received by Ofcom no later than the closing-date specified in Section 1 of this Notice. Applications received after this time will not normally be accepted. All applications will be acknowledged (usually by email).

3.5 No material amendments to the application may be made by the applicant after the closing date without the agreement of Ofcom. If any amendments need to be made by any applicant through circumstances outside its control, then Ofcom should be informed immediately. Ofcom will not agree to any such amendment which it considers would be unfair to any other applicant applying for a community radio licence in that round.

3.6 In connection with the electronic submission of documents, applicants should be aware that e-mail is not an instant means of communication, especially when there are large attachments. Ofcom’s email system cannot accept emails with attachments larger than 10 megabytes. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to submit e-mail applications at least 48 hours in advance of the closing date, so that urgent steps can be taken by the applicant if no acknowledgement from Ofcom is received.

3.7 Payment of the application fee must also be received by the closing-date specified in Section 1 of this Notice. Applicants may submit their payment by any of the following methods:

a) Payment by BACS into the Ofcom bank account (sort code: 30-97-90, account number: 00782415, account name: Ofcom). Please note that any payments made using this method will take at least three working days to reach the Ofcom.
account. In the mandate reference field of your payment, please write 'CR' followed by the applicant's company name or proposed station name.

b) Payment by CHAPS into the Ofcom bank account (details as above). Please note that although this is a 'same day' payment method, applicants intending to submit their payment on the closing-date itself should confirm with their bank the deadline for ensuring that it is received by Ofcom on that date. In the mandate reference field of your payment, please write 'CR' followed by the applicant's company name or proposed station name.

c) Payment by cheque. Cheques must be made payable to 'Ofcom', and posted to the address given in 3.2 above. If an applicant wishes to submit a cheque without an accompanying paper copy of the application, the cheque must be accompanied by a note detailing the applicant's company name or proposed station name.

3.8 Failure to comply with any of the above guidelines is likely to result in the disqualification of the application.