

Community Radio Network  
C/O NLive Radio  
St Johns Halls of Residence  
St Johns Street, Northampton, NN1 1DH  
martin.steers@northampton.ac.uk

The Rt. Hon. Oliver Dowden CBE MP  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
London, SW1A 2BQ  
[secretary.statesoffice@culture.gov.uk](mailto:secretary.statesoffice@culture.gov.uk)

12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

CC: Mr John Whittingdale, Mr Ian O'Neill – DCMS

Re: Joint letter calling on Government to level the playing field in relation to paid Government advertising

Dear Mr Dowden,

During the current COVID-19 crisis, Community Radio stations up and down the country have continued to provide vital support to local communities. We have worked hard to relay important messaging around Coronavirus, particularly material from the Government. However, while the Government is purchasing advert spots from Commercial Radio to run this material, Community Radio stations are yet to receive compensation.

As a collective of Community Radio stations, we are calling for urgent action by the Government to level the playing field between commercial and non-profit operators, and thus to commit to pay Community Radio stations for playing Government advertising and public service announcements as is currently the situation for commercial radio.

The sector has seen a loss of advertising, grants and donations, and there are concerns about the recovery and sustainability of Community Radio as a result of this crisis. One way for the Government to support the sector through this crisis would be to pay our stations for their carriage of Government advertising. We are calling on the DCMS and the Government as a whole to mandate the following: All departments and organisations that allocate budget to pay commercial radio operators ensure that Community Radio stations also receive fair recompense. In cases where buying is centralised, the Cabinet Office and the Government's media buying partners, OmniGov and other approved media buyers, should ensure that Community Radio is a proportion of their radio advertising spend.

These policies are not legislatively or procedurally complex. Indeed, both the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly have had similar policies in place for some time, and Community Radio stations in those nations receive payment for Government PSAs/advertising. All we are asking for is parity between the commercial and non-profit (or 'Commercial and Community Radio) sectors and equivalence in status across UK Government.

The majority of Community Radio stations have been playing the recent COVID-19 adverts from Public Health England to support our communities as the right thing to do voluntarily, **However, it is patently unfair that Commercial Radio stations are receiving Government money for this service, while non-profit operators are not.**

We would like to request an urgent meeting with yourself to discuss the matter.

Yours sincerely,

The Community Radio Network



Nathan Spackman - Bro Radio



Martin Steers - NLive Radio



Barry Clack - Witney Radio

On behalf of the following Community Radio Stations:

105.3 Seaside FM	Corby Radio
106.9 SFM	Crescent Community Radio
107 Endeavour FM	Cross Rhythms
107.2 Great Driffield Radio	Dean Radio
95.6 BRFM Bridge Radio Ltd	Diverse FM
Abbey104	Drive 105
Academy FM (Thanet)	East Coast FM
AIR 107.2	Eava FM
Alfred	Erewash Sound
Amber Sound FM	ExmouthAiR Radio
Ambur Radio	Fantasy Radio 97FM
Andover Radio	Fever FM
Angel Radio	Fiesta FM
Apple FM	First FM
Awaaz FM (Southampton)	Flame CCR
Belfast 89FM	FM105 Down Community Radio
Beverley FM	Forest FM
Beyond Radio	Gateway 97.8
Black Country Radio	Gaydio (Brighton)
Black Diamond FM	Gaydio (Manchester)
Bradford Asian Radio	Gloucester FM
Bradley Stoke Radio	Hailsham FM
Bcfm	Harborough FM
Bro Radio	Hermitage FM
Burgess Hill Community Radio	Hitmix Radio
Cabin FM	Hope FM
Calon FM	Hot Radio
Cambridge 105 Radio	Hull Kingston Radio 107.4FM
Canalside Community Radio	Insanity Radio
CandoFM	Ipswich Community Radio
Carillon Wellbeing Radio	Irvine Beat FM
Celtic Music Radio	Islands FM
Coast FM (Coleraine)	Jorvik Radio
Coast FM (Penwith Community Radio)	k107FM

KeeP 106	Somer Valley FM
Keith Community Radio	SourceFM
Kennet Radio	Stafford FM
Kohinoor Radio	Susy Radio
Legacy90.1FM	Switch Radio
Lisburn's 98FM	Takeover Radio 103.2 FM
Marlow FM	TD1 Radio
Mighty Radio	The Beat London 103.6FM
Moorlands Radio	103 The Eye
Nlive Radio	The Flash
Paisley FM	The Voice
Penistone FM	Thornbury Radio
Phoenix FM (Brentwood)	Tone FM
Phoenix Radio (Halifax)	Uckfield FM
Pulse	Ujima Radio
Radio Faza 97.1FM	Unity 101 Community Radio
Radio Leyland	Unity FM
Radio Newark	Vanny Radio
Radio Newquay	Vectis Radio
Radio Ninesprings 104.5 fm	Vibe107.6FM
Radio Sangam	Vixen 101
Radio Tircoed	Warminster Community Radio
Radio Verulam	WCRFM
RadioReverb	West Somerset Radio
RadioTyneside	Westside Radio
ReviveFM	Wey Valley Radio
RWSfm 103.3	Winchester Radio
Salaam Radio	Witney Radio
Seahaven FM	YO1 Radio
Secklow 105.5 fm	Zack FM
Sheppey FM 92.2	Zetland FM
Shoreline	
Sine FM	
Siren FM	

# PROFORMA INVOICE

Community Radio Stations  
C/O  
UK Community Radio Network

Date: **LONG OVERDUE**  
INVOICE # 1

To The Rt. Hon. Oliver Dowden CBE MP  
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
London, SW1A 2BQ

From	Job	Payment Terms	Due Date
The Community Radio Sector	Government PSAs	Due on receipt	<b>THE PAST 15 YEARS</b>

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Line Total
1	<b>Corona Covid19 PSA Campaign</b> 4 Weeks 23th April to 10 <sup>th</sup> May £100 per week standard airtime campaign £400 Campaign  133 Signed Stations	£400 per station	£53,200
		Subtotal	£53,200
		Total	£53,200

Thank you for **supporting** the Community Radio Sector

And thank you from the **hundreds of communities** that are supported by these stations.

We look forward to future campaign bookings, and for **NOT FOR PROFIT** – Ofcom Licensed Community Radio Stations to receive payment for playing **ALL future** Government PSA and advertising campaigns.