

9 February 2016

Don Carson
Chair
Wellington Access Radio Society Incorporated
PO Box 9073
WELLINGTON 6141

Dear Don

Application for non-commercial FM community radio frequency

Thank you for your application for the 106.1 FM frequency on behalf of Wellington Access Radio Society Incorporated (the Society). I pleased to inform you that your application has been successful.

There was strong competition for this frequency and the allocation panel gave very careful consideration to all the applications. In doing so, it decided that the application from the Society best demonstrated that it could deliver a sustainable, quality FM service matching the objectives of the Government's Regional and Community Broadcasting Policy Framework.

Accordingly, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH) is able to make an offer to you subject to the following considerations.

First, the Society is expected to implement an FM operation within 12 months from now, at the end of which time it will be expected to relinquish its existing AM frequency so that it can be made available to another party.

The panel is aware that current arrangements with Samoa Capital Radio are a key issue in respect of the AM frequency and expects the Society to involve that broadcaster, MCH and any other interested parties in discussing future options for the frequency.

Secondly, in the lead up to the establishment of the FM service, the panel expects the Society to address coverage issues with its planned FM transmissions, the panel's expectation being that it will maintain as close to the current coverage of its AM licence as is possible.

The Society is required to report to MCH, within six months, on how it expects to achieve this.

Thirdly, it is important to note that the Society will now be expected to serve a wider Hutt Valley community, and the panel expects it to report on how this will be achieved, including whether this might include the provision of a local office or studio facilities in the Hutt Valley.

Prior to transmissions commencing, MCH will negotiate a new FM licence agreement with you and the licence will then be issued by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). At that point, a final decision on the term of the licence will be made.

You may also need to arrange for a link between your studio and the FM transmission site. This requires a separate licence which your engineer should be able to advise you on. Should you require assistance, please contact the RSM information line on 0508 776 463.

The panel decided to allocate the FM frequency to the Society based on the strength of your application. However, the panel encourages you to maintain dialogue with representatives of the incumbent broadcaster, Hutt Community Radio Trust, and other Hutt Valley community interests to discuss how you may be able to provide an outlet for programming made by Hutt Community Radio and others.

Please confirm your acceptance by signing the section below and returning this document to MCH. A copy of this letter is provided for your records.

Please note this offer is subject to the completion of the processes outlined above, including the execution of a new FM licence agreement with you, to the MCH's satisfaction.

We wish Wellington Access Radio Society Incorporated every success in respect of its future FM service.

Yours sincerely


Carrie Cooke
Panel Chair

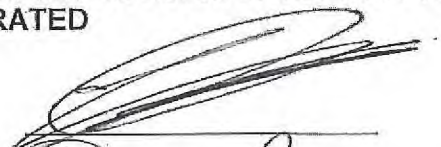
AGREED for and on behalf of WELLINGTON ACCESS RADIO SOCIETY INCORPORATED

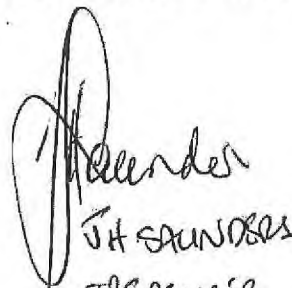
Signed:

Name:

Position:

Date:


Dan Carson
Chair
14/3/16


JH SAUNDERS
TREASURER
14/3/16

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT