GLOBAL GMG MERGER INQUIRY

Third party submission – 7 November 2012, Elin Jones AM (Plaid Cymru)

Dear Sir /Madam,

I understand that you are currently investigating the acquisition by Global Radio Holdings Limited (Global Radio) of Real and Smooth Limited (formerly GMG Radio Holdings Limited) (GMG Radio).

The Party of Wales welcomes Global Radio’s proposals, as set out in Ofcom’s report:
“To increase slightly total news minutage in daytime

“To introduce a new 20 minute news programme focusing on news from around Wales, including coverage of the Welsh Assembly and matters in relation to which the Welsh Assembly has powers.

“To create a new role for a Welsh Political Editor, principally based at the Welsh Assembly, whose remit will be to discover stories, ensuring devolved issues are interpreted for audiences.

“To maintain a dedicated news editor for Real Radio, ensuring it has a distinctive approach in its approach, tone and presentation.”

However, while we welcome these proposals, we seek reassurance that, were the purchase of Real Radio to be approved, Global Radio is committed to maintaining this revised, enhanced news service for the lifetime of the radio stations.

The Party of Wales has concerns about the monopoly that would ensue regarding radio advertising in north Wales were Global Radio’s proposal to purchase Real Radio realised. This would create a situation in north Wales where local businesses wanting to advertise on radio would only have one company to deal with. This would allow Global Radio to dictate the market value of radio advertising in the area which could make it impossible for any rival radio company to set up there and compete with them in future.

We believe that local diversity needs to be maintained and that commercial radio in north Wales needs to preserve its local ethos.

Thank you for taking our submission into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Elin Jones AM for Plaid Cymru the Party of Wales