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**From:** "Anil Kumar" <advbcs-2.tra@nic.in>  
**To:** "V.K. Aggarwal" <vk.agarwal@tra.gov.in>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 6:15:57 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Consultation paper on Issues related to FM Radio Broadcasting,

सादर,  
अनिल कुमार भारद्वाज  
सलाहकार  
प्रसारण एवं केबल सेवाएं  
भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण  
महानगर दूरसंचार भवन  
जवाहरलाल नेहरू मार्ग, नई दिल्ली, 110002

Best Regards  
Anil Kumar Bhardwaj  
Advisor Broadcasting and Cable Services  
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India  
J. L. N. Marg , New Delhi 110002  
India

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** nchsebpl@gmail.com  
**Date:** 2 March 2023 at 6:24:46 PM IST  
**To:** Anil Kumar <advbcs-2@tra.gov.in>  
**Cc:** ramesh.mani2k@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Consultation paper on Issues related to FM Radio Broadcasting,

Kind attention: Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Ad visor (B&CS)

Ref: - Our registration with TRAI /CAG/11/2013-CA date [04/06/2021](#)

The CAG (NCHSE) has the following comments to offer on the above cited subject for consideration.

**Q1. Are provisions related to Annual License Fee prescribed in the extant Policy guidelines for FM Radio broadcasting reasonable? If not, please provide methodology and criteria for arriving at Annual License Fee for private FM Radio channels with detailed justification.**

**Ans.** We think that Annual License fee as prescribed in the Policy guidelines for FM Radio broadcasting is quite reasonable.

**Q2. Is there a need to extend the permission period for existing FM Radio licensees? a. If yes, what should be the revised permission period? Please prescribe the period with detailed reasoning/ justification. b. If not, is there a need to extend any other assistance to private FM Radio broadcasters to overcome the impact of the pandemic? If so, please suggest suitable measures with quantified parameters and justification.**

**Ans.** Yes, there is a need to extend the permission period. Looking to the details of advertisement revenue as given in figure-2 the quarterly revenue dip from June, 2020 to September, 2021 and at the most up to March, 2022, so the extension in the

period of permission should be 2 years only instead of 3 years as represented by AROI . This extension will be on flat basis, therefore, nobody can claim any other benefit or relief due to pandemic. While giving an extension it should be made very clear that extension is granted looking to the very special case and it is one time extension only.

**Q3. Is there a need to review the present Policy guidelines as regards the News and current affairs on private FM radio stations? If so, please provide detailed justification, including the additional compliance/ reporting (if any), duration of news and current affair programmes and method of effective monitoring.**

**Ans.** We can allow the private FM radio broadcasters to broadcast News and Current Affairs strictly with the condition that such news and current affairs must be reported with due accuracy and presented with due impartiality. While giving such permission to private FM radio broadcasters, the Govt. in the initial stage much check the reliability and authenticity of the news and current affairs, which the FM radio broadcast. These days private T.V. channels have a tendency to relay the particular news and current affairs repeatedly at regular interval which should be avoided, while giving permission to Private FM radio broadcasters. Only once they should allow to broadcast news and current affairs and its total duration should be

limited to 15 to 20 minutes is a day.

**Q4. Is there a need to mandate that all the Mobile Handset manufactured/ sold in India will require to have an in-built FM Radio receiver? Please provide detailed justification for your comments.**

**Ans.** We do not think that it should be made mandatory for all the mobile handset manufactured/ sold in India will have an in built FM Radio receiver. Because, first it will be costly as compared to mobile handset non in built FM Radio receiver and secondly if some body do not want such facility from where he can get mobile handset without in built FM Radio receiver. So both the types of mobile handset should be available in the market giving facility of FM Radio receiver and not having such facility.

**Q5. Stakeholders may also provide their comments/ suggestions on any other issue that may be relevant to the present consultation.**

**Ans.** While giving permission to the private FM Radio broadcasters for News and Current Affairs, Govt. must be very careful and can be asked the broadcasters to have its recording. Preserve and sent it to Govt. for verification of its authenticity. This type of checking should continue at regular intervals.

Thanks and regards

R.Chandra  
CAG Member/Sr.Fellow



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