

No city studio until 1984 for Marcher Sound

WITH LESS than a month to go before the new commercial radio station Marcher Sound hits the air it now seems unlikely that Chester will have its own studio before 1984 at the earliest.

Managing director of the new station, Mr. Martin Bennett, said this week that they had given up any idea of using the Northgate Arena due to acoustic and other practical problems but had hoped to operate from a room in County Hall.

"The Cheshire County Council had promised us the use of a room and a telephone link up but they now say this will not be possible until the new year.

RADIO CAR

"However, we feel that we will be able to give Chester good news cover with the use of our radio car so we don't feel they will be missing out," said Mr. Bennett.

He also commented on the fact that the main studio site had been built at Gwersyllt, near Wrexham, instead of at the biggest centre of population in their catchment area.

"We did look for a site in Chester but found it impossible to find anywhere suitable."

BLACKSPOT

He defended the positioning of the station's headquarters by saying that the Wrexham area was something of an unemployment blackspot and it would bring some relief to the area.

There had been a £600,000 investment in the new station and Mr. Bennett claims that they will be looking to re-coup that cash within three years.

The progress will be monitored by the IBA who will check on the economic development of the company after two years.

The 5th September starting date is being widely publicised and the station

will be starting programmes at 6.30 am on 238m. on medium wave and 95.4mhz. on VHF.

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CHESTER OBSERVER