

Oftcom

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Reform of Amateur Radio Licensing

3/8/05

Dear Sirs

Please find enclosed my answers to the questions in the above document.

Q1 I agree in principle with a lighter process but have serious concerns regarding the lessened security proposed by Oftcom. ie the identity of new applicants & their authenticity as well as the loss of an accurate up to date database. This would surely lead to a chaotic situation and allow abuse.

Q2 I do not agree with a life time licence because again the accuracy of the database would be affected. People move about, I myself have moved how many times. Security is also an issue particularly in these days of terrorist activity, who knows where anybody is any more?

Q3 I do not agree with free licences. If you give them away it devalues the licence. Amateur Radio is a hobby and like others eg fishing that need a licence a fee is required. Abolishing the fee would inevitably lead to abolishing the licence - ie no dog licence required anymore.

Q4 I do not agree to a charge for postal applications, it would be discrimination against those who do not have computer access

Q5 I agree that WT act exemption is not practical because under the present act

Q5 (cont)

Radio amateurs must be issued with a licence and must hold a licence in order to operate.

Also at present UK amateurs can operate abroad which would almost certainly not be possible if no licence were available for inspection.

Q6 I do not agree with possibility of WOT Act exemption in the future because of the implications to existing International agreements which would have to be re-negotiated with the EU, ITU + CEPT, as well as the possible compromising of many reciprocal licensing/operating agreements with many countries in the rest of the world.

If the requirement to hold an entry qualification and a licence is abolished amateur radio would almost certainly cease to exist. - and chaos would come to much of the radio spectrum with widespread interference to many essential services

Q7 In my opinion the best option is that which is in current use.

- an entry examination
- licence issued
- fee paid annually
- database updated regularly

Q8 I do not agree the current system is over-burdensome. I pay by Direct Debit and do not have to do anything else. If Ofcom find it too much then farm it out to a third party.

Q9 I have no problem with charging a reasonable administrative fee for the issue of NOV's

Q Badger G30HC
3/8/05