

Question 1

I agree with the proposal to introduce a lighter, electronic licensing process.

Question 2

I agree with the proposal to issue licenses which remain valid for the life of the licensee.

Question 3

I agree with the proposal to issue licenses free of charge.

Question 4

I agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing postal applications since processing these will incur administrative charges. I feel it is important that an alternative to the electronic process remain for those without access to networked computers. There are many precedents for electronic processing resulting in reduced charges (e.g. booking flights with some airlines incurs an extra cost if not done online).

Question 5

In the short term license exemption would cause the problem that amateurs would no longer have a license document for inspection by foreign authorities. It would seem likely that many authorities which currently accept a UK amateur license would in future require UK amateurs to obtain a license under their jurisdiction in order to operate.

Question 6

I feel that WT license exemption for radio amateurs is most undesirable either now or in the long term. The amateur radio license allows the use of home constructed and modified equipment whereas all other license exempt radio users are required to use type approved equipment. The ability to use home made and modified equipment remains one of the great privileges accorded to amateur radio license holders. Given the potential of long range communication it is essential that the relevant authorities can contact individual amateurs in order to investigate problems such as interference. This requires that Ofcom maintain a database of names and addresses of amateur radio users. This in effect requires some form of license.

Question 7

I prefer the license for life regime described in the consultation document. However I would be equally happy with a fixed term license arrangement requiring renewal e.g. every 10 years.

Question 8

While the UK licensing regime does not strike me as over burdensome, I can contrast the current UK system with the US system (as I am also a US extra class license holder). My US license is valid for 10 years and can be renewed at no cost. The US system appears much simpler and just as effective. A charge is made for holding and renewing 'vanity' call signs.

Question 9

I agree with the proposal to apply a charge for NoV applications, provided that the charge is modest and reflects the administrative cost of processing the application.