

FIRST CLASS POST

14 August, 2005

Amateur Radio Licensing
OFCOM
Riverside House
1A Southwark Bridge Road
LONDON SE1 9HA

Dear Sirs

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING - PROPOSED REFORMS

I have given careful consideration to the Consultation Document issued by OFCOM and having regard to all the circumstances, I am strongly of the opinion that Ofcom would be well advised to retain the present licensing system virtually unchanged.

Radio amateurs, as recognised in the Foreword - Section 1, have since the very early days of radio experimentation and invention, played a vital role in the advancement of the inventiveness and uses of the radio spectrum as a whole.

Unfortunately, as Ofcom will be aware, there are a very limited number of persons who seek to abuse the use of the radio spectrum, whether amateurs or not, and it is therefore essential that controls and regulations are in place and as necessary implemented and enforced with all the legal powers available to ensure the frequencies are available for uninterrupted use by those amateurs and others for the benefit of the whole community.

Thus, in my view, it is essential that a detailed and current database of all amateurs is maintained; that licences are renewed annually and amateurs kept informed of any changes introduced by Ofcom or other Government agencies which affect the use of the radio spectrum.

My Amateur Radio Licence was issued in January, 1984 and I consider that not only the greatest hobby in the world, but the enjoyment and satisfaction of making friends around the world and NOT being involved in RELIGION, POLITICS and FOUL LANGUAGE enhances the knowledge of other nationalities and friendships are forged and maintained and in some cases enhanced by correspondence and personal contacts and visits.

The majority of radio amateurs are willing to assist others at all times and introduce and maintain communications in sometimes the most dire conditions. Amateurs have much to offer and deserve the unswerving support of Ofcom and all Government agencies and it is essential that current regulations and the monitoring of the radio spectrum is maintained. In particular the current frequencies allocated to amateurs must be maintained and existing bandwidths increased if possible with consideration of new bands being made available.

Ofcom should in my view, encourage far more young people to become interested in radio and electronics and to become radio amateurs and they need to be supported by an efficient regulatory system, regularly updated and strict enforcement would I believe discourage those who seek to abuse the system. If the system is abused, it must be easier to check any given situation if a regularly updated data-base is maintained.

Clearly, the use of satellites and other means of transmission and experimentation is of benefit not only to radio amateurs, but professionals and others involved in the use of such communications. I trust that the Baldock and other monitoring stations will be maintained at their full capacity, particularly in these difficult national and international circumstances.

The whole consultation document is extremely complex and in view of the fact that I am Registered Partially Sighted, somewhat difficult for me to read with the assistance of magnification. However, much as the authors of the document appear to be intent on proceeding to almost solely rely on electronic means of communication and licensing, no serious consideration appears to have been given to those NOT "on-line" including blind operators who must depend on the postal service.

In conclusion, I sound this note of caution, namely to emphasise that any simplification of the radio amateur licensing system must NOT be to the detriment of appropriate and thorough monitoring and the maintenance of up-to-date information on all radio amateurs and indeed all users of the radio spectrum.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive letter 'A' or similar shape.