

31/07/05

OFCOM Consultation OF 243 - reply. *** Questions 1-9

Q 1 - Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a lighter, electronic licensing process?

A 1 - NO - Although being involved with computers and computing all my working life I am not on-line at home. There are still a number of radio amateurs who are not on-line for several reasons. This change may be appropriate at some future time.

Q 2 - Do you agree with the proposal to issue licences which remain valid for the life of the licensee?

A 2 - NO - It would cause a reduction in the awareness of the licence in the eyes of the holder and the general public. Also it would lead to a greater degree of inaccuracy in the database. The advantage of regular reminders to the holder, of licencing conditions, would be lost in the long term.

Q 3 - Do you agree with the proposal to issue electronic amateur radio licences free of charge?

A 3 - NO - My main reasons are that the licence will suffer from devaluation in the eyes of :-

- 1 - The holder.
- 2 - The law. ie. It will no longer be seen as a binding contract between the holder and the licencing Radio Authority.
- 3 - The Government, Ministry of Defence, Academic research Institutions and Industry.

It is also Divisive, causing division between those on-line and those having to pay administration and postal charges.

Q 4 - Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing postal applications for amateur radio licences?

A 4 - YES.

Q 5 - Do you agree that WT Act licence exemption for radio amateurs is not currently possible?

A 5 - YES.

Q 6 - What are your views regarding the possibility of WT Act licence exemption for radio amateurs in the longer term?

A 6 - This has far reaching effects on :-

A 6 - cont. + Amateur radio equipment manufacturers, suppliers and users. Amateur radio training and examination. International amateur radio operation when abroad on holiday or if a resident. Repeater networks, Band plans, Call sign allocation, Station location records, Communication skills in the UK, Wide spread spectrum abuse, etc, etc,

Q 7 - Is maintaining the existing licence regime but with an extended renewal period your preferred option?

A 7 - YES - I prefer a 3 - 6 year period for renewal as this will keep a good level of licence record accuracy. Any shorter a period will still be an administrative burden. Any longer will increase record inaccuracy and lower licence awareness by the holder. Also perhaps a small increase in licence fee of £20-£25 to off-set administration costs, there would also be a perceived extra value for money because of the additional years. This level of increase should not be a dis-incentive to the hobby.

Q 8 - Do you agree that the current licensing system is over-burdensome?

A 8 - YES. to a degree.

Q 9 - Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing applications for a Notice of Variation to an amateur radio licence?

A 9 - YES.

END