

Email response received 28 July 2005 from Mr C Vernon G4CTD:

Question 1: Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a lighter electronic licensing process?

I agree that the licensing process could be improved in the way described however I do have concerns about the following:

How will Ofcom ensure that new applications are genuine and fully compliant with the requirement to have passed the Radio Communications examination?

By placing the emphasis on free electronic registration and update Ofcom is discriminating against licensed amateurs who do not have access to an internet linked computer.

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

I do not agree that licences should be issued for life, this will result in a gradual loss of accuracy in the location database which is a serious concern regarding investigations of cases of interference. Amateur operation in certain bands may be put at risk if the primary user is not confident these issues can be resolved quickly.

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

The existing licence fee is set at a reasonable level which is not a disincentive to new amateurs joining the hobby.

I feel this should be retained as it is an incentive to make active use of any licence issued.

I am not happy that licensed amateurs who do not have access to an internet linked computer would be disadvantaged under the new system.

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

All radio amateurs should pay the same licence application fees.

Question 5: Do you agree that WT Act licence exemption for radio amateurs is not currently practical?

Agree WT Act licence exemption is not practical or desirable.

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

Do not agree with WT Act licence exemption. WT Act allows design and build of equipment by exemption from R&TTE Directive.

Amateur radio allows experimentation and learning through the hobby – this is vital and must be retained otherwise the hobby will be devalued for many people.

Question 7: Is maintaining the existing licensing regime but with an extended renewal period your preferred option?

If maintaining the current system is not an option this is the next best thing.

Five year licences would provide a good compromise between the cost of operation and maintaining the amateur radio database.

This should allow some cost reduction which should be available to all.

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

No I am perfectly happy with the existing arrangement.

Question 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?

Yes there should be a fair charge to cover administrative costs.