

Email response received 11 August 2005 from Mr David Whalley G4EIX

Question 1: *Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a lighter, electronic licensing process? If not, please explain why.*

Yes. However, without knowledge of the actual mechanism for doing this, I have concerns about the integrity of the system to avoid misuse and the problems of access to all licensees. With thought and consultation, it could be a much better system than we have at present and could again lead the world.

Question 2: *Do you agree with the proposal to issue licences which remain valid for the life of the licensee? If not, please explain why.*

Yes. Once qualified, the person concerned can renew at any stage, so a lifetime licence would make that process simpler. I assume that it is also possible for this privilege to be withdrawn in the case of particular individuals who do not follow the regulations.

Question 3: *Do you agree with the proposal to issue electronic amateur radio licences free of charge? If not, please explain why.*

Yes. As long as this does not devalue the licence and is seen as a reward for studying and passing the examinations. It would make the system simpler and avoid costs imposed by financial institutions. The removal of a fee must not have any other consequences concerning the status or conditions of the service, now or in the future.

Question 4: *Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing postal applications for amateur radio licences? If not, please explain why.*

No. This proposal is divisive and makes the rules more complicated. I would like to see the amateur community devise its own system for helping those without the technical facilities to apply.

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

Yes. If not illegal, it would involve a lot of international agreements.

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

Exemption would create too many problems to contemplate at present and at any time in the future. My experience of the real world leads me to think that. Even if it was legal, this would result in countless practical problems in world administration. The type of service resulting in a free-for-all would not encourage the more academic and technical people who would use it as a stepping stone to future careers. I consider it very important to maintain a reasonably accurate licensee database

Question 7: *Is maintaining the existing licensing regime but with an extended renewal period your preferred option? If so, please state the renewal period that you believe would be appropriate and explain why.*

Yes. If a lifetime or five year licence is the chosen option, I would still like to see the electronic registration of the licensee at regular periods. Even the direct debit system does not ensure that the main address is correct or even if the licensee is still alive. Maybe if the registration is not done for more than a five year period, the licence becomes void and has to be renewed to become valid again. This minimum registration period could be chosen to make the licensee database as accurate as desired.

Whatever system is chosen, it should not change the purpose and standing of the service that has evolved from a distinguished history during the last century.

Question 8: *Do you agree that the current licensing system is over-burdensome? If not, please explain why.*

Yes. However, I do not think that it is excessively burdensome. I think that all systems should be made as simple as possible as long as they fulfil their purpose.

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? If not, please explain why.*

Yes. Whoever administers this necessary service will incur costs which need to be recovered.

I have based my replies on my experienced gained as many years as a licensed amateur and my time serving on numerous national and local committees, including the RSGB Council. My present paid employment uses skills developed from my self-training in amateur radio.