

Email response received 9 August 2005 from Mr J A Welsh GI4JXM:

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

Answer 1. I agree provided that some form of paper system is also provided for those who do not wish to use/have no access to electronic means. Also some means of verification would be required to prevent fraudulent applications.

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.*

Answer 2. I would only agree if this license was internationally recognised as valid for life, if not, some form of yearly validation would be required for CEPT operation.

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

Answer 3. I agree.

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.*

Answer 4. I agree.

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

Answer 5. I agree.

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

Answer 6. As an internationally recognised radio service I feel that some form of control and licensing must be preserved, otherwise there is a considerable danger that untrained and untraceable persons could create havoc in the Amateur bands, and perhaps more importantly, cause severe interference to other radio services.

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.*

Answer 7. I have no strong view, but if it was kept then perhaps something in the order of 3 – 5 years. (but note answer 2 above)

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

Answer 8. No. It is hardly difficult to post the renewal form and cheque once a year.

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.*

Answer 9. I agree.

Any other Comments

As an older Amateur I took pride in passing the RAE and Morse test to obtain my license as I think most did, and would not like to think of it becoming in effect worthless.

If the Government no longer wish to charge us for the licence then that is up to them, and if they no longer care where we live then that too is up to them. However I would have great objection to the UK adopting some sort of scheme which devalued our licence in the eyes of the world or made it difficult or impossible for us to have reciprocal operating rights in other countries.