

Email response received 4 August 2005 from Mr C Whelan GW3NJW:

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

Answer 1. Yes

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. Yes

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

Answer 3. Yes

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. Yes

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

Answer 5. Yes

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

Answer 6. Unwise

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. No

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

Answer 8. Yes

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. Yes

Any other Comments

The proposals are sensible and workable. However they must not be seen as a precursor to total deregulation, which must be avoided at all costs. In reality that process has already gone too far with the Issuance of the M3 licence, which is clearly not valued or respected.

Quite simply, radio communication- other than elementary CB style operation-, cannot be entrusted to those without the necessary technical qualifications. Amateur Radio has existed worldwide on the basis of the aforementioned criteria of technical competence, and continues to flourish on such a platform by the maintenance of such a regime. Equally, there is no justification in the 21st century, for an over-bureaucratic or proprietorial stance by organisations such as Ofcom to the Amateur Radio spectrum.

Proceed, but with caution. Carry RSGB with you. They are an imperfect organisation, and overcautious in their current stance, but they are the best user group that we have currently.

Clive Whelan
GW3NJW
(licenced since 1959)