

**Email response received 4 August 2005 from Mr A G Walker G4DIU:**

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

Answer 1. YES

Provided that the necessary linkages between the applicant and the amateur radio data base is maintained to ensure that the applicants examination results meet with the Radio Communications Examination requirements.

I would, however, have to say No if there was the slightest likelihood of just anyone being able to apply for an amateur radio licence as this would allow for any and all forms of abuse to take place within the amateur spectrum.

**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. NO

If a "Lifetime" licence were to be introduced, I can foresee, in the future, a growing lack of knowledge as to the whereabouts of licencees due to the lack of up to date information being forwarded, as is the case with "E-mail" addresses etc.,

I can also envisage problems when it comes to trying to identify the source and cause of interference, for the reasons given above.

An accurate and completely up to date list of licenced transmitting stations is vital and would be of immense use in case of National Emergencies.

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

Answer 3. NO

Amateur Radio is a hobby, which – in line with most other hobbies of worth is partly regulated by the use of fees. Anyone who wishes to take part in any hobby is only too willing to pay a reasonable fee to help to keep out unwanted elements and also give the users of that hobby a voice in the running of the hobby.

There is also the grossly unfair situation between those who have access to the internet and those who do not, as they would appear to be treated differently.

There is also the case to be made, that if I should require assistance from OFCOM in the future, I would not get it due to the lack of fees etc.,

**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. NO

Because if the licence fee is abolished it would constitute discrimination against those who do not have on-line access.

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

currently practical?

Answer 5. YES

I am very concerned that WT Act exemption would mean complete deregulation of :- Power outputs, use of repeaters, packet communications etc.,

A whole lot more clarification needs to be included in the OFCOM documentation.

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

Answer 6. NO

I disagree with licence exemption on a number fronts. The most important, from an Amateur point of view is that I still require a validation certificate if I wish to transmit from a foreign country. Under the OFCOM plans this document would not be available to me.

I can foresee many problems when many other Government departments would have to renegotiate many, if not all, of the long established, international agreements.

**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. YES

I think that an extended renewal period would be in the best interests of all licenced Amateur Radio Operators (say five years) with the proviso that the existing examination and certification remain in force.

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

Answer 8. NO

I cannot see anything "Over-burdensome" in the current system as it only requires that the licence holder returns the necessary documentation within a specifies period and those of us who have arranged "Direct Debit" payments do not weven have this problem.

Only Civil Servants could possibly find this "Irksome".

**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

A small charge for Nov's Is acceptable where the Nov reflects a change of use.

I would not be In agreements of charging for the use of a Special Call Sign to commemorate an historic event or some other memorable occasion.

**Any other Comments**

Text...

As a member of the R.S.G.B. and the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society, I feel that access to the Amateur Radio Bands should be regulated by the issuing of a licence, obtained by the passing of an examination which would reflect the knowledge and abilities of the applicant. It would also reflect that the necessary disciplines required when transmitting on the air and show a regard for the hobby, the country and Amateur Radio as a whole.

I fear that the MORI report was a complete fiasco - it does not appear to represent or reflect the views of a proper cross section of the licenced Radio Amateur fraternity, in that it shows no input from senior licenced Amateurs. Surely, even MORI must have realised that their sample was taken from very recently licenced operators and was therefore biased against the amount of knowledge which exists in the Amateur Radio World.

It appears that OFCOM has little or no knowledge of the uses of Amateur radio in the real world.

You only have remember back as far as Boxing Day 2005 to realise just how valuable Amateur Radio and Its various Emergency networks were, and still are, to the Local Governments and authorities Involved during the Tsunami disasters.

To say that "other Countries" have dispensed with radio and were now using the Cell Phone networks for emergencies, just does not hold water, Again you only have to refer back to the recent Bush Fires In New South Wales, where they tried to use the "Cell Phone Network" to find out just how quickly the system became overloaded and how much confusion was caused when the Local Authorities tried, In vain, to sort out the Chaos which was generated by the uncontrolled input and Hoax Callers which resulted in hundreds of wasted man-hours and misplacement of valuable fire-fighting machinery.

Finally :-

The Spectrum Review Document in not an "In-house" OFCOM discussion paper.

It is of vital importance to all National and International bodies and should have been distributed and discussed by all.

It should, therefore, have been published and distributed to all spectrum users throughout the world.

Sincerely

A. G. Walker.