

I write on behalf of Pantomime Productions.

Pantomime Productions is a small theatre production company based in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

We present an annual pantomime at the Royal Victoria Hall Theatre, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells. Each year our pantomime runs for between 20 and 25 performances and entertains between 7000 and 8000 people.

In addition we provide technical performance support to other productions at the Royal Victoria Hall Theatre, to the drama departments of local schools and to various community and charity events.

Our activities regularly involve the use of radio microphones and radio communications.

We are concerned that implementation of the current Ofcom proposals contained in the Digital Dividend Review would have damaging impact on our activities.

- 1) If spectrum is auctioned to the highest bidder we doubt that any theatrical or entertainment organisation exists which would be able to co-ordinate a bid on behalf of our interests.
- 2) If a bid organisation could be found it is very unlikely that the value of any bid which it could make would be able to compete with large commercial undertakings such as Vodafone, Dell Corporation or Microsoft, all of whom have already expressed potential interest in bidding if an auction takes place.
- 3) We support the proposals of the PMSE Pro User Group that an adequate amount of spectrum should be reserved from the auction process and placed in the management of a band manager who would ensure efficient use of the spectrum and licence usage.
- 4) We also support the PMSE Pro User Group regarding future use of channels 67 and 68 and that channel 69 should remain as a regulated channel managed by the band manager.
- 5) Ofcom estimate of £10million as the value of equipment which could be made redundant if their proposals were implemented appears to us to be unrealistically low. We believe that some simple research would show a much higher value.
- 6) Radio microphone and communication used by us has high value and long life. We cannot afford premature redundancy of this equipment. Service life of this equipment is typically 15 years. If changes to the spectrum availability are to lead to redundancy of our current equipment we need at least until 2020 before the use of our current equipment has to cease.

We request that our interests, and those of very many similar organisations, be more carefully considered by Ofcom before any implementation is undertaken. We urge Ofcom to undertake detailed discussions with British Entertainment Industry Radio Group (BEIRG) who we believe are competent to represent our views and interests.

Brian Hampton
Technical Manager
Pantomime Productions