

Question 1: This executive summary sets out Ofcom's proposals for the release of the digital dividend. Do you agree with these proposals?::

No. The unintended consequences of Ofcom's Digital Dividend Review (DDR) are troubling. The current plan to auction radio spectrum to the highest bidder poses a grave threat to the British entertainment industry, especially to the Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) sector.

As a member of Equity I am greatly alarmed at the effects of current spectrum proposals on entertainment events in the UK. Without current analogue equipment, which is totally reliant on the use of this spectrum, all modern theatrical, musical, and entertainment events are imperilled.

Our sector relies on the unused spectrum that interleaves between current analogue TV broadcasts, to enable the use of radio microphones, in ear devices and other short-range wireless devices. These systems are integral to the production of recorded and live entertainment. If the proposed changes go ahead, virtually all organisations that rely on radio spectrum will be adversely affected.

This sector is disparate and diverse and will struggle to compete if large organisations, such as the mobile phone contractors hold this valuable spectrum.

Question 2: Do you have any comments on our analysis of the essential constraints that will apply to the available UHF spectrum?::

Question 3: Do you agree with the more detailed analysis and proposals regarding these technical constraints as set out in Annex 10?::

Question 4: Do you have any comments on Ofcom's assessment of the potential uses of this spectrum? Are there any potential uses which should be considered that are not mentioned in this document?::

Question 5: Do you have any comments on our analysis of the choice between a market-led and an interventionist approach to the release of this spectrum? Do you agree with the analysis of different mechanisms for intervening to remedy potential market failures?::

Question 6: Do you agree with our proposals to continue making available channel 69 for use by low power PMSE devices? Do you agree with our proposal to make some or all of the spectrum available for use on a licence-exempt basis?::

Question 7: Do you agree that there should be transitional protection for professional PMSE users to ensure that they can continue to access interleaved capacity until at least the end of 2012? Do you have any views on the mechanism for providing future access to this spectrum?::

Question 8:Do you consider that additional spectrum from the digital dividend should be reserved for low power applications? If so, please provide as much evidence as possible about the nature of the application and its potential value to society.:

Question 9:Do you consider that it would be desirable to hold back some spectrum from award with a view to its potential use for future innovation? If so, please provide comments on how much spectrum should be held back, and for how long.:

Question 10:Do you agree with our proposal that we should package the interleaved spectrum in a way that would be suitable for use by local television services, but not reserve spectrum solely for this use?..:

Question 11:Do you agree with our proposal to package the spectrum in a way which does not preclude mobile broadband use, but to take no further action in relation to this use?..:

Question 12:Do you agree with our proposal that we should not intervene in the award of this spectrum to reserve spectrum for DTT? Do you agree that we should package the spectrum in a way which is suitable for DTT use?..:

Question 13:Do you consider that we have included in our analysis the most material risks in relation to market failure?..:

Question 14:Do you agree with our proposal to auction licences for the use of the available UHF spectrum?..:

Question 15:Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals as to the timing of any auction? If not, what alternative proposal would you make and why, and what evidence and analysis can you provide in support of your alternative proposal?..:

Question 16:Do you have any views on which of the packaging options identified for the cleared spectrum would be most suitable?..:

Question 17:Do you have any views on which of the packaging options identified for the interleaved spectrum would be most suitable?..:

Question 18:Do you have any views on which of the auction design options would be most suitable?..:

Question 19:Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals for the non-technical terms of the licences to be awarded for use of the UHF spectrum?..:

Question 20: Do you agree with the analysis of the options as set out in this Impact Assessment?:

Additional comments:

I am writing to draw your attention to the unintended consequences of Ofcom's Digital Dividend Review (DDR). Under current plans, Ofcom plans to auction radio spectrum to the highest bidder. These changes pose a grave threat to the British entertainment industry, especially to the Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) sector.

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