

My club has asked me to write in response to your consultation document on the spectrum framework review.

I would wish to point out that the members of this club are most concerned with some of the implications for amateur radio contained within the document. I will confine my response to that affecting amateur radio.

Firstly, it is rather disturbing to detect a lack of knowledge of amateur activity by your writers - indeed it might be said that it displays a certain confusion or ignorance regarding the fundamental principles of wireless telegraphy and the manner in which signals propagate world wide. I would draw your attention to a major inconsistency viz:

Sect. 1.3 states that "licence exempt use would be a problem where signals cross international boundaries" whilst 4.3 states that amateur radio is one area where you are considering removing the need for a licence.

I believe that some confusion may arise when a connection is made between CB radio licences and amateur licences. There may well be a case for de-regulating CB, given that only "type approved" equipment is used and no knowledge of technical matters is required. The amateur licence is very different, permitting the construction of equipment for experimental use. **It is our belief that the amateur licence should remain fully regulated, as at present.** Given that amateur radio is extensively used for world-wide communication, it is difficult to see how Britain could effectively deregulate this service in isolation from, and without consultation with, overseas regulatory bodies.

I would like to conclude with some comments about the nature of amateur radio as it seems clear that some confusion exists regarding this type of licence.

Historically, it should be noted that amateurs are largely responsible through experimental work of revealing the potential for communication on short wavelengths. They went on to be a considerable help in the interception of hostile radio signals during World War 2. The term "amateur" is something of a misnomer, since many licencees are chartered engineers and scientists and use their abilities in radio experimentation to further the knowledge of the subject. A full amateur licence is regarded as a professional qualification.

To sum up:

This club **OBJECTS** to the de-regulation of amateur radio on the grounds that it would diminish the status of amateurs and possibly lead ultimately to "type-approved-only" equipment working and remove the essential ability to experiment.