

Main body of submission

In order to maintain a vibrant amateur radio community it is essential that the present privileges are largely maintained right across the spectrum. The different aspects of amateur radio include:- self training to various levels, social and public service, educational and technical investigations which often lead to new developments in communications. (see note 2). For such developments to continue allocations are required on all the present bands. Where rationalisation is needed amateurs could trade some spectrum for smaller, preferably exclusive and internationally co-ordinated bands in the interest of ongoing developments by amateurs.

Many of the interesting investigations undertaken by amateurs involve weak signal modes. The assertion that "Amateur receivers already work in the presence of a degraded noise floor" is not true in the microwave spectrum proposed for UWB. Much work is being done at levels limited mainly by ground noise.

Proposals to allow "Cognitive access" to our frequencies would destroy our ability to do useful work of this kind. Cognitive mechanisms are unlikely to pay attention to our pre-existing low level signals and thus regard our allocations as clear to use.

With proposed Ultra Wide Band systems that raise the noise floor, the "Genie" will be out of the bottle and unable to be put back once such schemes are approved. The onus should be heavily placed on the commercial interests proposing such schemes to prove beyond reasonable doubt that they will not adversely effect other services.

Firm regulation is essential to amateur radio especially because of it's experimental and self training elements for which permission to use non "type approved" equipment is a vital part. If Ofcom wish to delegate this regulation it would make a great deal of sense to explore the possibility of getting the national society, the Radio Society of Great Britain to administer the amateur bands on their behalf in much the same way as the MoD manage their parts of the spectrum.