

Response received 06 March 2005 from Mr Les Ellson:

## Consultation questions

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

**YES. This would encourage more leisure boat users to have vhf radios out on the water. Particularly the smaller boats. The introduction of expensive DSC regulations and radios put progress in this area back 10 years.**

*Question 2: Do you agree with the proposal to issue licences which remain valid for the life of the vessel? If not, please explain why.*

**YES. This would remove many of the problems of long distance cruising boats arriving in overseas destinations when their radio licences have run out whilst on passage.**

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

**YES. With good IT programming the system could be set up so that little human intervention was necessary.**

*Question 4: Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing postal applications for ship radio licences? If not, please explain why.*

**YES. With the use of sailing clubs and internet cafes even those who do not have their own computers should be able to process an electronic version.**

*Question 5: Do you agree that the transfer of licensing to the MCA would not offer any significant advantage over the existing licensing system?*

**YES – DEFINITELY. The MCA, as an organisation, is seen by most leisure sailors as a fairly hostile agency. They appear to be largely concerned with making a case for their own jobs and passing on as much of the resulting costs to boat owners.**

*Question 6: Do you agree that WT Act licence exemption for vessels that remain within UK territorial waters is not currently practical?*

**YES. More and more leisure boat users are making passages to areas outside UK territorial waters.**

*Question 7: Do you agree that WT Act licence exemption remains a worthwhile long term objective? If not, please explain why.*

**NO. Only for very small craft totally incapable of offshore passages. Greater use of satellite and gsm mobile telephones will influence where and when we move in this direction. Although there are not seen favourably in some marine circles they are being used and are saving lives.**

*Question 8: Do you believe that WT Act licence exemption would have an impact on maritime safety? If so, please explain why*

**NO. Some degree of licensing and regulatory control is required.**

*Question 9: Would you prefer to see the current licensing system maintained without change? If so,*

*please explain why*

**NO. Reasons above.**