

Consultation question:

In light of the further evidence presented in this document, Ofcom proposes to allocate three blocks of spectrum in VHF Band III, sub-band 3 for local radio multiplexes under the licensing process set out in the Broadcasting Act 1996, with the aim of covering geographical areas that do not presently have local radio multiplexes. Ofcom also proposes to allocate one block of spectrum in the same sub-band for a national radio multiplex under the licensing process set out in the Broadcasting Act 1996.

Do you agree that these proposals represent the optimal use of the spectrum?

Nokia Comments

Noting OFCOM's comments set out in the consultation regarding international harmonisation (pasted below).

As a global manufacturer, Nokia is strongly In favour of international harmonisation of spectrum resources. Harmonisation is a critical factor in technology adoption and subsequent market success. In order to avoid potential fragmentation and a UK only solution, we urge OFCOM not to pre-empt RRC06 agreements and to secure international harmonisation of use of this valuable spectrum before decisions on the licensing process are made.

It is unclear why the normal consultation period was not used In this case.

Consultation extracts

"Our current negotiating position is that we wish to secure international agreement for the use of the frequency range 209 to 217.5 MHz.By virtue of the required geographical extent of their use, national multiplexes are more demanding of international co-ordination, and require more accommodation from neighbouring countries, than local multiplexes....The policy work to determine what is the right use of this spectrum can therefore take place in parallel with the RRC negotiations, and the negotiations can take place in accordance with the overall ITU timetable, without needing to wait for policy decisions in the UK. "

"Consequently, and subject to the outcome of this consultation, we would propose to commence the release of these four blocks of spectrum in sub-band 3 of Band III as soon as the two outstanding matters (i.e. international agreement at the Regional Radiocommunications Conference and the re-assignment of existing users in the band) are resolved."