

Terms of Reference Public Safety Spectrum Policy Group (PSSPG)

The PSSPG is a standing interdepartmental committee reporting to the UK Spectrum Strategy Committee¹ and comprises representatives from Ofcom, the department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), the Scottish Government (SG), the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the Department of Health (DH), the Cabinet Office (CO), and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Other organisations that participate on an 'as required' basis are listed at Annex 1. The PSSPG is chaired independently and its Technical Sub-group advises on day-to-day assignments of Public Safety spectrum. The current organisational structure is shown diagrammatically at Annex 1.

The Public Safety Spectrum Policy Group is responsible for:

1. advising UKSSC and Ofcom on the broad spectrum requirements to meet the essential needs of UK emergency service and public safety users² now and in the future;
2. setting the policy for and advising Ofcom and UK Emergency and Public Safety Services on access to spectrum dedicated to emergency service and public safety use;
3. advising Ofcom on spectrum that has become surplus as result of changing emergency service and public safety operational requirements, and determining the timing and manner of release of such spectrum for other applications; assessing and advising Ofcom of any trade's that are requested within the E&PSS spectrum;
4. ensuring future access to Public Safety spectrum will be via market mechanisms, but noting that where absolutely necessary the UKSSC may be requested to consider approving specific recommendations for Secretary of State directions to Ofcom as provided for under section 5(3) of the Communications Act 2003.
5. contributing to the biennial Forward Look³ in accordance with the government response to recommendations 2.6 and 8.1 of the Independent Audit of Spectrum Holdings. This will be supported by independent assessments where required.

The PSSPG will where necessary seek advice from and work with others where it determines that this would assist in reaching a decision. For operational policy issues this may include other government departments, agencies and UKSSC sub-groups.

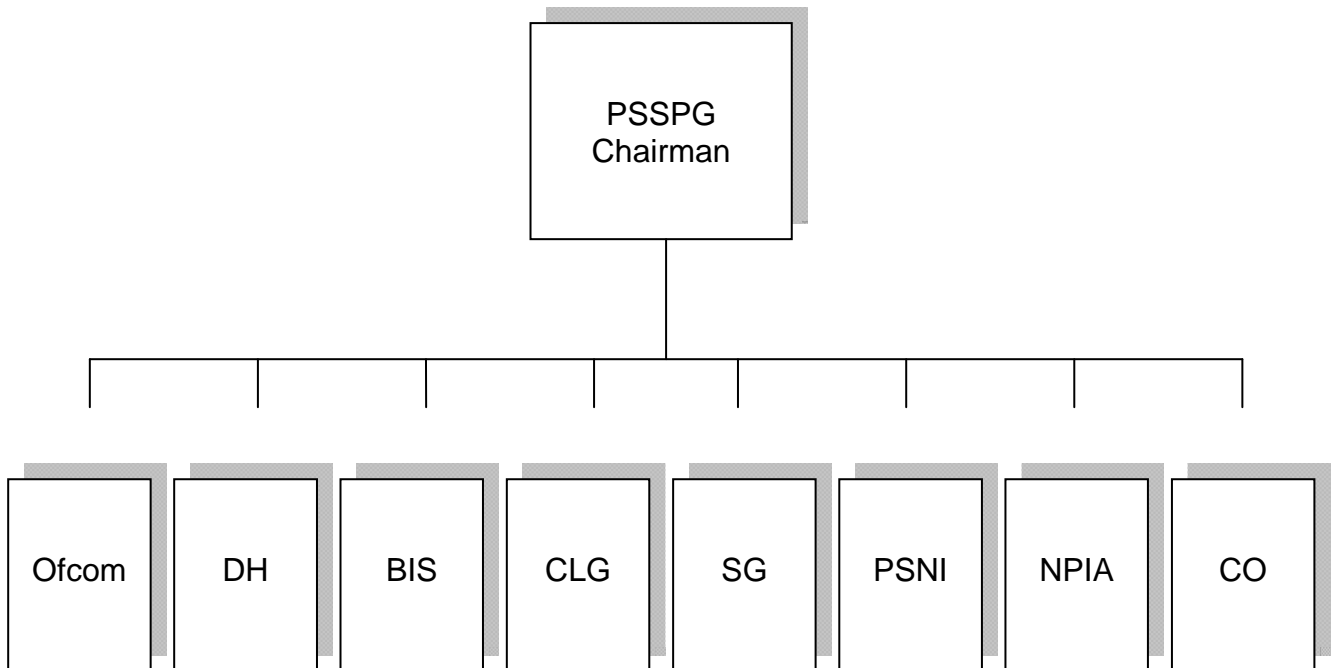
¹ Responsibility: "To oversee the management and regulation of the radio spectrum".

² Emergency Service and Public Safety users defined by the PSSPG in a Joint Policy Statement.

³ The 'Forward Look' is the Government report on its progress in implementing the recommendations of the Cave Review.

The PSSPG Technical Sub-group will consider applications from eligible emergency service and public safety users seeking new or additional allocations from bands dedicated to emergency service and public safety use and will assess these using the criteria determined by the PSSPG.

Public Safety Spectrum Policy Group Reporting to UKSSC



Organisations that attend as required

MoD
MCA
HMRC