

## **Report of Access to Assignment Data Sub-Group.**

### Meetings

There has been one meeting in August since the last MSC. The next is scheduled for 6 December, following a postponement by the RA whilst “Sitefinder” was launched.

### Sitefinder

Sitefinder was launched on 5 October. It was also trailed at the Health and Safety Exhibition in Bournemouth and at the RA roadshows. It has since received about 20 thousand searches per day for pieces of information. Reaction to the site has been low key but generally positive. Suggestions for improving its zoom facility have been the most significant suggestion and plans are in hand to upgrade the zooming early next year.

There has been little comment to the RA about the nature of data presented. We are looking to discuss with the operators about whether to provide tables of data to local authorities, following requests from LA’s to help the planning process. The RA will shortly be adding Northern Ireland (around the turn of the year). No decision has yet been taken about whether to add TETRA sites and there has been no pressure so far to include other types of network.

### Industry database and Access

The sub- group has identified the need for industry access to data in two forms. The first form is to gain a CD Rom of standing data which gives a historic snapshot on a search date of all permanent stations across a range of services at specific locations, areas or nationally. The subgroup obtained a copy of a similar facility issued by the Australians for reference. On a trial basis a demonstration of the data about stations held on RULES for an area 8 Km of Charing Cross was considered. The sub group was also able to review the RULES fields available. It was felt that RULES met most of the criteria for data except for a few fields, which would need to be added for some types of network. RULES currently does not have every public service included but is progressively expanding to do so. One advantage of making information on sites transparent would be the opportunity to verify that the data remains accurate and interactive data cleansing should be a key feature.

The second format for data is to make a specific enquiry “on line” about a certain location/ network/ frequency /assignment detail.

The RA is currently identifying the feasibility studies necessary to match the other demands for new databases. For example, the needs emerging from the proposed Authorisation Directive for a frequency for assignment database, and proposals for spectrum trading registers, and the requirements for e- licensing indicate a clear synergy between all these requirements.

Ability for Agency (or later OFCOM) to disclose information.

The paper proposed by the Agency had been intended to be released earlier but was delayed first by the general election and then by some new issues identified on data protection law which have had to be resolved with various Government Departments and Agencies. However the delay has enabled the Independent Spectrum Review to take a close interest and they are giving a lot of support for moving to greater transparency about spectrum use. It is hoped that the document will be approved by the Minister for consultation in the near future.

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RA (sub-group Chairman)