

## Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information about use of talk-through or in-band repeaters which we have considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for copies of any policy document or correspondence which describes or explains the position of RAYNET-UK or its predecessor, the Radio Amateur Emergency Network, or the RSGB, or any other group in respect of authorising or controlling the use of repeaters or talk-through equipment, including the issue of "permits".

We do not hold any document or correspondence that describes or explains the position of any of the organisations named (or any other organisation) in respect of authorising or controlling the use of repeaters or talk-through equipment, including the use of "permits".

However, you may find the following information useful. The Amateur Radio Licence and the Notice of Variations (NOVs) that we may grant do not distinguish between different groups of users. There are consequently no special provisions or facilities (or restrictions) on radio amateurs operating under Clause 1(2) or 1(3) in support of a User Service, beyond the provision of Clause 11(2). If your Licence permits you to use radio in a certain manner (and the Amateur Radio Licence intentionally keeps restrictions to a minimum), then you may operate in that manner.

Talkthrough is not expressly provided for or prohibited by the Amateur Radio Licence though Clause 10 might apply in some cases. It follows that if its use complies with all applicable terms and conditions of the licence, then you may use talkthrough. That you may be using it in the course of operating as provided for by Clause 1(2) or 1(3) is incidental. Clause 3 of the Licence provides for operating the station of a Club or of another person.

Only Ofcom may authorise the use of amateur radio in the UK. This includes granting both licences and variations (NoVs). While some NoVs are distributed via the RSGB website, we have not made any delegated authorisation arrangements for amateur radio.

I hope that this is helpful.

Kind regards

Julia

If you are unhappy with the response or level of service you have received in relation to your request from Ofcom, you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be treated as a formal complaint and will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will acknowledge the complaint and inform you of the date by which you might expect to be told the outcome.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

**Timing**

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for undertaking internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exception cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact:

Steve Gettings

The Secretary to the Corporation

Ofcom

Riverside House

2a Southwark Bridge Road

London SE1 9HA

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF