

Closure of 26 GHz band to new fixed link licence applications and technical variations

Notification to stakeholders: 18 January 2022

Today we are announcing that the 26 GHz band will close to applications for new fixed link licences as of **18 July 2022**, six months from now. From that date, we will also not accept any new technical variation applications for existing licences in the band.

The 26 GHz band (i.e. the range of frequencies from 24.25-27.5 GHz) is a pioneer 5G band, harmonised for 5G use across all of Europe. For some time now we have indicated that the long-term future of the 26 GHz band is for 5G services: in our [February 2017 update on 5G spectrum in the UK](#), our [July 2017 Call for Inputs on 26 GHz](#), our [December 2017 Fixed Wireless Services Strategy consultation](#) and the follow-up [statement in July 2018](#). In July 2019 we confirmed our plans to make access to the band possible on a low-power, indoor-only basis in our [statement introducing the new Shared Access Licence](#), which became available in December that year. In our [update of 5 April 2017](#), we also advised applicants for fixed link licences to consider alternative fixed link bands to meet their requirements, where possible.

This six-month notice period is intended to give anyone with existing plans to deploy new fixed links in the band the opportunity to submit any final licence applications.

However, in line with our April 2017 update, we would strongly encourage both current and prospective users to consider alternative fixed links bands to meet their requirements. As we have indicated previously, the future of the 26 GHz band is for 5G, rather than for fixed links.

We recently published our consultation on how we expect to protect sensitive services in the adjacent 24 GHz band from unwanted emissions from future 5G services in the 26 GHz band. This consultation, together with this notice, lays the groundwork for our plans to authorise new 5G use of the 26 GHz band. We plan to publish a consultation in Q1 of FY 22/23 setting out our approach to authorising new 26 GHz users in detail, including any proposals relating to incumbent users in this band.