

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

Malcolm

**Surname:**

Bay

**Representing:**

Self

**Organisation (if applicable):**

**What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:**

No

**If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:**

**Ofcom may publish a response summary:**

Yes

**I confirm that I have read the declaration:**

Yes

**Additional comments:**

I am a licensed radio amateur and have been active on the ATV 13 and 23 cm bands since 2003.

I also experiment at 3.4GHz.

I am a member of the Radio Society of Great Britain and British Amateur Television Club.

**Question 1: Do you agree that it is likely that the benefits to UK consumers and citizens will be greater from the MoD's release of spectrum in the 2.3 GHz and 3.4 GHz release bands than from retaining the current amateur use?:**

Yes.

**Question 2: Are there current uses in the release bands other than those detailed in RSGB's band plan and discussed in Section 3 of this consultation?:**

None that I am aware of.

**Question 3: Are there further consequences of removing the release bands from amateur licences that have not been considered in our analysis?:**

No

**Question 4: There is an option (although not preferred) to remove access to the adjacent bands, as well as to the release bands. What are the consequences of removing access to the adjacent bands from amateur licences?:**

Access to this part of the spectrum is a relatively easy way for amateurs to start experimentation at microwave and many amateurs, myself included, have invested significant time and money in building equipment for communication at these wavelengths.

**Question 5: Are there current uses in the adjacent bands other than those detailed in the RSGB's band plan and discussed in Section 3?:**

The contribution of UK amateurs, to the general benefit of all spectrum users, has been an important spin-off from the experimentation and informal research conducted over many years at these frequencies. It will be to the detriment if it subsequently proved impossible to use frequencies designated by International Amateur Radio Union band plans.

**Question 6: Are there additional mitigation measures which would provide demonstrable proof that amateurs would not cause interference into LTE in the release bands following the release?:**

Aderance to the published band plans has always been a feature of good amateur radio practice and special interest groups and the RSGB would be a key factor in any new arrangements.

Expert RF engineers amongst the amateur fraternity would quickly lead the design of any required filters that would minimise adjacent interference.

**Question 7: Do you agree with the proposed process for varying licences following cases of reported interference and our proposal to vary licences should dealing with the number of reported cases become too onerous?:**

It is very likely that the RSGB could oversee the mechanisms for investigating interference to primary users and once again the amateur fraternity has many professional rf engineers with access to sophisticated test equipment with which to offer help and assistance to those amateurs experimenting at these frequencies.

**Question 8: Do you agree with our preferred option?:**

Ofcom's preferred option is acceptable, assuming a sensible approach is taken by Ofcom in matters of policing and determining cessation of amateur use.

Continued amateur access to this frequency range remains highly desirable in continuing the practice of mutually beneficial self-learning and experimentation.

**Question 9: Are there additional changes to the Amateur Radio Licence which would assist amateur in lowering the risk of causing harmful interference to new uses?:**

No - I believe that the current amateur license contains sufficient and effective clauses that require amateurs not to cause interference to other services.