

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Paul

Surname:

Hyde

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 having held the callsigns G8DES and then G4CSD since 1970. I am also a member of the RSGB and the IET and am currently the Coordinator for the Radio Astronomy Group of the British Astronomical Association (BAA).

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?:

Not current usage, but there is the potential for future use.

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

The amateur microwave bands offer the potential for experimentation related to amateur radio astronomy, both in terms of active measurements (under NoV arrangements) from beacon transmitters and passive measurements making use of existing amateur radio receiving equipment. The development of technology such as Software Defined Radio creates new possibilities for amateur radio astronomy. So much of the spectrum is being lost to uncontrolled emissions from PLT and solar panel systems that the reduction of protected allocations will have a disproportionate effect here.

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?:

This would pose a severe disincentive to any form of experimentation in this part of the spectrum, feeding through to a general reduction in amateur activity across the entire microwave region. This is the part of the spectrum where true experimentation/self-education activity is undertaken.

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?:

None that I'm aware of

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?:

None that I'm aware of

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?:

No. The term 'onerous' is too subjective. The concern must be that, in the face of commercial pressure, variation will be the preferred option particularly for a regulator seeking to implement cost cutting in its work.

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

Yes

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?:

None that I am aware of