

**From:** [webform@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:webform@ofcom.org.uk)  
**To:** [Kevin Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** Responding to the consultation - Ian Hickling - PMSE - Publish all - used CFI form for answers  
**Date:** 24 March 2014 12:44:00

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**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

Ian

**Surname:**

Hickling

**Representing:**

Organisation

**Organisation (if applicable):**

transplan UK and Community and Short-term Radio as an entity.

**Email:**

ian@transplan.uk.com

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

No

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

none

**Ofcom may publish a response summary:**

Yes

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

Yes

**Additional comments:**

**Question 1:What future uses might this spectrum support:**

An additional allocation of at least two channels with a bandwidth each of 500 kHz for use in low-priced point-to-point audio links for PMSE applications as the existing spectrum allocations are too restrictive and unduly expensive for small-budget organisations. The advantage here is that budget-priced short-run equipment and suitably compact antennas are commercially available whereas they are not for existing allocations.

**Question 2:What implications might these possible future uses have for the way in which this spectrum is configured in terms of transmit powers, bandwidth and geographic coverage? For example:**

- **Could these possible future uses be accommodated under the existing Business Radio licence products? If so, would they need the channel widths of the existing Business Radio licence products to be increased above 25 kHz ?**
- **Alternatively, would they require an entirely new licence product to be developed?**
- **Do you think that we should allocate (at least) some of this spectrum for licence exempt use?**
- **If (at least a part of) this spectrum is made available for use under the existing Business Radio licence products, do you think that more spectrum should be allocated for light licence products as against technically assigned or area defined products?**

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For the application proposed paid licensing could be short-term only and be administered by the established Arqiva/JFMG system but it is not impractical for permanent use of one channel to be allocated on a white-space basis in some areas where other usage is not heavy.

**Question 3:What factors should Ofcom take into account in deciding how to make this spectrum available (both in terms of the choice of release mechanism and in terms of the timing and speed of release)?:**

The requirement for use is clear and undoubted and there need be no delay in allocation.

**Question 4:What total bandwidth in megahertz (MHz) would you require to operate the prospective service (whether the authorisation is provided under licence or is licence exempt)? (eg. if answering 25KHz, please make clear if this is 1 x 25 kHz or 2 x 12.5 kHz):**

2 x channels of 200kHz bandwidth for multiplex/analogue stereo audio transmissions.

This would involve only 13% of the released spectrum and only when occupied in any given area.

**Question 5: Would this bandwidth need to be contiguous? If so, please explain why your service requires contiguous blocks only.**

**If not, what would be the size of individual channels within the overall bandwidth?:**

Yes in order to send the audio/multiplex information required.

**Question 6: If you think the prospective use would be suitable for licence exemption, please indicate the transmit power levels you are likely to require:**

4W ERP maximum if licence-exempt is permitted.

**Question 7: In which geographic area are you likely to use the spectrum (eg. UK Wide, Regional, Conurbations, Rural):**

UK-wide but only in a specific narrow-corridor format

**Question 8: Please give a brief description of the technology (ies) that you will be using with the spectrum that you license:**

Analogue or possibly digital transmission and reception of audio/multiplex signals for studio-to-transmitter or OB-to-studio links for Ofcom-licensed radio broadcasters.

**Question 9: Would you require a minimum licence tenure for you to consider operating your service? If so, how long (in years) would you want this minimum licence tenure to period to be (noting that you might need to pay for the full minimum tenure period on licence issuance)?:**

On a 28-day or 365-day basis within the existing Arqiva/JFMG PMSE system.

**Question 10: As explained in section 2, the existing [Business Radio licence](#) products are currently made available in bandwidths of 6.25, 12.5 or 25kHz, although it would be possible to make them available in larger bandwidths where there is enough spectrum to enable this (as is the case with this newly available Mid Band VHF spectrum). In light of this, would your prospective use of this newly available Mid**

## **Band VHF spectrum:**

**Be possible using one of the existing Business Radio licence products in the currently available bandwidths (of 6.25, 12.5 or 25kHz)? Be possible using one of the existing Business Radio licence products, but in a bandwidth greater than 25 kHz (but with other licence conditions remaining as now)?**

**Require a new type of licence**

**Require licence exemption**

**Don?t know:**

Different from the Business Licence format as explained above.

**Question 11: If your prospective use of this newly available Mid Band VHF spectrum would be possible using one of the existing Business Radio licence products, which existing licence product would it require?**

**Simple Site**

**Simple UK**

**Suppliers Light**

**Technically Assigned**

**Area Defined**

**If your proposed use is Technically Assigned please indicate if the use will be shared or exclusive:**

PMSE as outlined above

**Question 12: Which existing [Business Radio licence](#) type do you currently hold? (Please type in product name ) Simple Site, Simple UK, Suppliers Light, Technically Assigned, Area Defined, Combination of the above, None, Don?t know :**

PMSE Licences as required to service Clients' requirements

**Question 13: Would additional spectrum allow you to consolidate existing assignments? (If so, please provide information on the assignments that you may hand back to Ofcom as a result of consolidation):**

Not applicable

**Question 14: Do you have any further comments:**

Our area of the Industry has been drastically conbstrained by the loss of the 860MHz spectrum sector and an allocation in Midband woud restore the fairnness and scope of this form of broadcast activity whiuh is otherwise activelty supported and promoted by Ofcom and H M Government.