

Musicians' Union
60-62 Clapham Road
London
SW9 0JJ

Mr Jon Higham
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

5 July 2013

Dear Mr Higham

I am writing to register the Musicians' Union's support for BEIRG's recent response to the consultation on the future use of the 700MHz band.

The Musicians' Union (MU) represents over 30,000 musicians working in all genres of music. As well as negotiating on behalf of our members with all the major employers in the industry, we also offer a range of services tailored for the self-employed by providing assistance for professional and student musicians of all ages.

We fully support and endorse BEIRG's response, notably that mobile broadband and other services may bring some benefits to consumers in the future, but this should not be at cost to PMSE or any other existing industries reliant on spectrum.

We do not accept that there is a need for the 700MHz band to be cleared of existing incumbents at all. Release of 700MHz as early as 2018 should certainly not be considered as an option. The impact of allocating more UHF spectrum to mobile broadband on those sectors reliant on PMSE will far outweigh any benefits to citizens and consumers. Incumbent PMSE and DTT users should therefore be favoured ahead of new mobile services.

If PMSE does not have sufficient access to spectrum, its capability to produce content will be severely hindered. PMSE content creation has gone a long way in fuelling mobile broadband demand – this fact should not be ignored.

Ofcom also needs to consider the potential social and cultural costs in instances where PMSE is rendered unable to put on events as a consequence of 700 MHz clearance. These are difficult to quantify – but are real and will have consequences for all consumers of content.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Isabelle Gutierrez

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