

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:

Keep name confidential

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 an active Amateur and hold a transmitting licence. My interest for the past thirty years or so has been the microwave bands. I would find it a significant disappointment and reduction in enjoyment of the hobby if access to all of the bands in question were to be removed. I have self built equipment for both 2.3 and 3.4GHz, which I enjoy testing and using when I am able.

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, reluctantly I have to agree even though it is going to be detrimental to the amateur radio hobby, which is founded on experimentation, particularly in the microwave bands.

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?:

No, I don't believe there are any that have not been included.

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

No, your analysis is quite comprehensive.

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?:

It would mean that the investment I have made in purchasing components and building equipment that currently I use, would become redundant and I would lose the investment and also the enjoyment of making contacts in the adjacent bands (both 2.3GHz and 3.4GHz). We amateurs would lose the experimentation factor in using these bands during various propagation conditions.

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?:

No, not that I know 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?:

This is a difficult one to answer, without knowing the band plan and usage by the LTE suppliers. We generally use narrow modes such as SSB and CW at those frequencies, which should be not much greater than 3kHz wide. Power is normally on the low side since there is not much high power surplus amplifiers available and devices for those frequencies are still quite expensive. These factors probably provide a level of mitigation already.

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?:

I am very concerned that without any precedent regards interference that might be reported by the LTE suppliers and also by the MoD for the adjacent bands, Ofcom could, without discussing with amateurs/RSGB, decide to give three months notice of the removal of amateur access to the remaining bands. I think that there should be a formal discussion period of say three months prior to Ofcom taking any action.

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

Yes, but on the conditions described in the above answer to question 7.

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?:

I cannot see that any changes to the licence could significantly reduce the risk.