

Ref: [00371653](#)

Business Radio algorithm software – closed 25 January 2017

1. When was the Ofcom BR licensing masts algorithm software modified, so as to allow for the borders between UK regions to be considered as a vectors, as opposed to a whole 50km squares?

Mobile Assignment Technical System (MASTS) was introduced in 2008 as part of the Business Radio reform to reduce the number of licence products from 21 to 5, and was designed to implement the changes as set out in our statement on Business Radio Trading & Liberalisation published in January 2007. In this statement we noted that Area Defined licences:

Cover the whole of UK, one or more Nations (i.e. England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) or a region down to 50 km grid squares;

Spectrum mask, boundary conditions, exclusive use of frequencies in the licensed geographical area, no technical assignment by Ofcom of individual base stations; and

No limit on base station deployments or mobile numbers within the licence area.

Our policy relating to Area Defined licensing (for UK regions or 50 km grid squares) has not changed, therefore MASTS has not been modified in this regard.

2. When was a change in policy made that now allows for technical assignments to be placed in the remaining area between the border and the adjacent region/square?

There has been no change in policy with respect to geographical areas for Area Defined licences. Our assignment process is carried out in accordance with our Technical Frequency Assignment Criteria. MASTS uses these criteria to appropriately assign spectrum to Technically Assigned and Area Defined licences in accordance with our stated policy.

3. Was any impact assessment or consultation carried out before this policy change was implemented?

There has been no change in policy with respect to geographical areas for Area Defined licences, therefore no impact assessment has been carried out.

4. Finally how many Area defined licences issued will be affected by these changes?

There has been no change in policy with respect to geographical areas for Area Defined licences, therefore there are no licensees affected.

I would also note that where changes to legislation require Ofcom to consult publicly, the consultations are now publicised via our Consultations Bulletin, which anyone can sign up to.