

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Peter

Surname:

Bates

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:

As a radio amateur, I respond as purely a narrow band user and potential moonbounce user of the two frequency bands in question.

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?:

I am not aware if any

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

I am not aware of any

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 have a major impact on the development of understanding and skills over a wide frequency range which will be increasingly used. Amateur radio has contributed and potentially will continue to do so in the self education of individuals who also work or subsequently will work professionally in the engineering and propagation involved in the development of systems at these frequencies.

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?:

I am not aware of any

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?:

Amateurs operating at these frequencies are generally technically interested in the operation of their equipment and the formation of a nationwide self help system to measure equipment performance would be feasible.

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?:

Not entirely

My experience as a retired professional in the field of radio frequency engineering is that interference can be as much to do with the inadequacies of the recipient's equipment as with those of the emitter. the onus needs to be on both parties to ensure a solution. My view is that the number of reported cases is likely to be small and solvable unless the use of badly designed equipment becomes widespread. It is hoped that before blanket restrictions be imposed on licences that there should be time for consultation, analysis and reporting on the cases involved. As in 6 above the formation of a self help group within the amateur community could lighten the burden on Ofcom.

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

In general 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?:

Until these new uses come into being, and their technical implementation understood, it is difficult to state specifics.