
**Terms of reference for:
Ofcom Spectrum Advisory Board**

Approved by the Ofcom Board on 24 May 2016

1. Functions

- 1.1 The Ofcom Spectrum Advisory Board is to provide independent, strategic advice to Ofcom on matters that directly or indirectly have a bearing on policy issues to do with future communications architectures, access methods, physical layer technologies, spectrum, services and applications.
- 1.2 In formulating its advice, OSAB is to consider the future communications landscape from technological, economic and societal perspectives, consonant with Ofcom's statutory duty to further the interests of citizens in relation to communications matters.
- 1.3 In particular, OSAB is to advise on:
 - a) Ofcom's spectrum strategy, major UK national allocation decisions, spectrum management, and the application of spectrum pricing/trading;
 - b) issues that are currently "beyond Ofcom's headlights" to which Ofcom should start to give attention;
 - c) new communication technologies;
 - d) new means of managing the radio spectrum and their implications for Ofcom;
 - e) whether Ofcom's current and developing policy stance is appropriate and where new policy might be needed.
- 1.4 The OSAB may also be asked to advise on:
 - a) the extent to which future wireless and fixed communications infrastructure and services may be complementary or compete with one another;
 - b) novel technologies such as cognitive radio;
 - c) ongoing initiatives such as digital TV switchover;
 - d) emerging uses of spectrum in areas such as transport and healthcare;
 - e) ways to measure and assess the effectiveness of spectrum management policies;
 - f) the development of market-led initiatives such as SURs;
 - g) the balance between licensed and licence-exempt spectrum;
 - h) the stimulation of innovation through spectrum policy;
 - i) trends in international relations;
 - j) ways that spectrum policy could be used to further the interests of the citizen and the consumer.
- 1.5 To avoid any conflict of interest, members of OSAB will not have access to confidential information pertaining to Ofcom decisions affecting specific companies. This does not however preclude the discussion of potential Ofcom policies.

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- 1.6 With the support of Ofcom staff, reporting shall include an Annual Report, publication of key findings on the Ofcom or OSAB website and hosting occasional Open Forums.
- 1.7 Members of OSAB should be drawn from a mix of commercial, academic and consulting backgrounds, in order to assess topics in a multidisciplinary manner, and to advise Ofcom on matters of strategic significance. Membership will include ex-officio representation by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) who will participate fully in discussions but reserve the right to abstain from agreement on substantive matters. Members will not receive remuneration other than reimbursement of expenses.