

General Comments

- *As a user of the Amateur microwave bands since 1985 and the holder of a full licence Issued in 1966, I am more than a little concerned at the prospect of completely losing the secondary allocations at 2.3 and 3.4 GHz. I am a member of the UkuW Group and the RSGB and have gained (along with many others) a vast experience of operating, propagation and equipment construction at these frequencies and above.
I have access to test equipment including Spectrum Analysers, Microwave digital frequency meters, Signal generators, Power meters, GPS disciplined sources, loads and directional couplers purchased solely for amateur radio purposes.
Whilst I can see the need for the release part of the spectrum to be allocated for LTE I would hope that the adjacent bands could be retained for secondary use by amateurs..
Self- education at no cost to the State is surely what the Amateur licence is all about.
Also microwave amateur radio users have a considerable financial investment in equipment that is band specific, this would be lost if the adjacent bands were removed.*

Questions and Answers

The release bands (2350-2390, 3410-3475 MHz)

Q1. 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?

A1:

Yes possibly for those who live in highly populated areas, there will still be many areas where there is slow or non-existent access to the network.

Q2. 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?

A2:

Not as far as I am aware

Q3. Are there further consequences of removing the release bands from amateur licences that have not been considered in our analysis?

A3:

Not that I know

The adjacent bands (2310-2350, 2390-2400, 3400-3410 MHz)

Q4. 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?

A4:

The loss of a valuable part of the spectrum for educational and experimental use, also the financial loss of investment in equipment and antennas.

Q5. Are there current uses in the adjacent bands other than those detailed in the RSGB's band plan and discussed in Section 3?

A5:

Not that I am aware

Q6. 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?

A6:

I am sure the operators of the new systems in the release bands have the expertise to protect their equipment from out of band signals and it is up to the amateur fraternity to show that they can build and maintain their equipment to a required specification. This I am sure will be demonstrated to be the case as a large proportion of amateurs who use the microwave bands are professionally qualified in the RF industry, have access to test equipment and are willing to assist those who require equipment calibration.

Q7. 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?

A7:

Surely varying of licences following interference has always been the case – one would hope that one or two cases would not be the stepping stone to removal of the adjacent bands completely

Q8. Do you agree with our preferred option?

A8:

It is acceptable

Q9. Are there additional changes to the Amateur Radio Licence which would assist amateur in lowering the risk of causing harmful interference to new uses?

A9:

The amateur licence already requires the licensee not to cause undue interference to primary users, it is difficult to see how this can be improved by changes to the licence.