

2027 No. ****

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2027

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Coming into force

The Office of Communications (“OFCOM”), in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 12(1), 13(2) and 122(7) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006^(a) (“the Act”), make the following Regulations.

Before making these Regulations, OFCOM have given notice of their proposal to do so in accordance with section 122(4)(a) of the Act, published notice of their proposal in accordance with section 122(4)(b) of the Act, and have considered the representations made to them before the time specified in the notice in accordance with section 122(4)(c) of the Act.

Citation and Commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2027 and shall come into force on [***2027].

Amendment of the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) Regulations 2020

2. The Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) Regulations 2020^(b) (“the Principal Regulations”) shall be amended in accordance with the following provisions of these Regulations.

Amendments of Regulation 4

3. In regulation 4 (Licence charges and time of payment) of the Principal Regulations—

(a) after sub-paragraph (6)(b)(vi), insert the following sub-paragraph—

“(via)the classes Spectrum Access (Future Rail Mobile Communication System) 1900-1910 MHz and Spectrum Access (Emergency Services Network) Gateways 1910-1915 MHz 1910-1915 MHz listed under the heading “Spectrum Access” in Schedule 2;”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (6)(d), for “£100,000” substitute “£75,000”;

(c) in sub-paragraph (7)(d), for “£100,000” substitute “£75,000”; and

(d) for paragraph (8) substitute the following entry—

^(a) 2006 c. 36.

^(b) S.I. 2020/1068, as amended by S.I. 2021/1117, S.I. 2022/1310, S.I. 2023/400, S.I. 2024/1318 and S.I. 2025/1038.

“(8) Subject to paragraph 8A, a licensee to which this paragraph applies—

- (a) shall not be required to make payment at the prescribed time other than in accordance with this paragraph; and
- (b) shall make payment of the sum in twelve equal instalment payments with the first instalment to be paid to OFCOM on the day which shall be the same day as the prescribed time when the prescribed sum or the prescribed sums were to be paid to OFCOM and each subsequent instalment to be paid on the same day in each of the eleven consecutive months thereafter (or in a month in which there is no such day, on the last day of the month).”

(e) after paragraph (8), insert the following paragraph—

“(8A) A licensee to which paragraph (8) applies may give notice to OFCOM of the licensee’s intention to make payment at the prescribed time of a sum equal to the prescribed sum referred to in paragraph (6) or equal to the total of the prescribed sums referred to in paragraph (7)(d).”

Amendment of Regulation 10

4. In regulation 10 (Licence charges payable for the 32 GHz frequency band) of the Principal Regulations, in paragraph (1), for “31.815-32.571 GHz and 32.627-33.383 GHz” substitute “31.815-32.445 GHz and 32.627-33.257 GHz”.

Amendments of Schedule 2

5.—(1) Schedule 2 (Licence Charges and Payment Intervals) to the Principal Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (5).

(2) Under the heading “Fixed Wireless Access”, after the licence class entry “Spectrum Access (3.9 GHz)” delete the following entry—

Fixed Wireless Access (5.8 GHz)		£1 for each terminal, subject to a minimum fee of £50 for up to 49 terminals.	12 months
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(3) Under the heading “Maritime”, after the licence class entry “Coastal Station Radio (UK) Area Defined” delete the following entry—

Coastal Station Radio (Training School)	£20		
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(4) Under the heading “Satellite Services”, in relation to the licence class “Satellite (Earth Station—Non-Geostationary)”—

- (a) in Column 2 (Fixed sums) delete “£500”; and
- (b) in Column 3 (Variable sums) insert “For each site (the area contained within a circle of a radius of 500 metres centred on a point defined by the licensee), the appropriate sum calculated in accordance with the formula set out in Part 1 of Schedule 4”.

(5) Under the Heading “Spectrum Access”, after the licence class entry “Spectrum Access Offshore Mobile” insert the following entries—

Spectrum Access (Future Rail Mobile Communication System) 1900-1910 MHz		(a) £1,458,000 for each 10 MHz of bandwidth in the 1900-1910 MHz band for the area of Great Britain.	12 months
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		(b) £42,000 for each 10MHz of bandwidth in the 1900-1910 MHz band for the area of Northern Ireland. (c) £14,580 for each 10 MHz of bandwidth in the 1900-1910 MHz band per 100 miles of route where the licence is for an area that is not Great Britain or Northern Ireland. The sum shall be rounded up to the fee corresponding to the nearest 100 miles.	
Spectrum Access (Emergency Services Network) Gateways 1910-1915 MHz		£364,500 for each 5 MHz of bandwidth in the 1910-1915 MHz band for the area of Great Britain.	12 months

Amendments of Schedule 4

6.—(1) Schedule 4 [Fees Payable for Satellite (PERMANENT EARTH STATION) and (TRANSPORTABLE EARTH STATION) Licences] to the Principal Regulations shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) In the heading to Schedule 4, for “FEES PAYABLE FOR SATELLITE (PERMANENT EARTH STATION) AND (TRANSPORTABLE EARTH STATION) LICENCES” substitute “FEES PAYABLE FOR SATELLITE (PERMANENT EARTH STATION), (EARTH STATION—NON-GEOSTATIONARY), AND (TRANSPORTABLE EARTH STATION) LICENCES”.

(3) In Schedule 4, for Part 1 substitute the following entry—

“PART 1

FORMULA FOR CALCULATING THE APPROPRIATE SUM FOR SATELLITE (PERMANENT EARTH STATION) AND (EARTH STATION—NON-GEOSTATIONARY) LICENCES

1. In this Part, subject to paragraph 3, “the appropriate sum” means the amount in pounds sterling, which is payable for Satellite (Permanent Earth Station) and Satellite (Earth Station—Non-Geostationary) licences, calculated in accordance with the formula set out in paragraph 2.

2. The formula is—

$$AS = \sum_{bands} \left[28 \times BF_{band} \times NGSO_{factor} \times \sqrt{\sum_{10 \text{ highest value paths}_{band}} (P_{path} \times BW_{path})} \right]$$

where—

“AS” means the appropriate sum;

“bands” mean the numbers listed in Column 1 of the table set out in Part 2, corresponding to the range of frequency band listed in Column 2 of that table which are authorised by the licence;

“BF_{band}” means the band factor applying to each band, being the number in Column 3 of the table set out in Part 2 corresponding to the band listed in Column 1 of the same table;

“BW_{path}” means the authorised transmit bandwidth (in MHz) for each transmission path;

“NGSO_{factor}” is a value “1.2” for Satellite (Earth Station—Non-Geostationary) or a value of “1” for Satellite (Permanent Earth Station);

“paths_{band}” means the set of those transmission paths authorised by the licence from each transmitter connecting with a satellite for which the authorised transmission frequency lies within the frequency range of each band as set out in Column 2 of the table set out in Part 2;

“P_{path}” means the authorised peak transmit power (in Watts) at the flange of the antenna of the earth station for each transmission path; and

“transmission path” means a combination of a satellite earth station transmitter, a satellite receiver, a transmission frequency, and polarisation for which transmissions are authorised by the licence. For Satellite (Earth Station—Non-Geostationary) each constellation shall be treated as one satellite receiver.

3. Where the amount in pounds sterling calculated in accordance with the formula set out in paragraph 2 is less than £500, the appropriate sum shall be £500.”

(4) In Schedule 4, for Part 2 substitute the following entry—

“PART 2

BAND FACTOR FOR CALCULATING THE APPROPRIATE SUM FOR A SATELLITE (PERMANENT EARTH STATION) AND (EARTH STATION—NON-GEOSTATIONARY) LICENCES

<i>Column 1: band</i>	<i>Column 2: Range of frequency band (fb) (in GHz)</i>	<i>Column 3: Band factor</i>
1	fb < 5	2.33
2	5 ≤ fb < 10	1.72
3	10 ≤ fb < 16	1.00
4	16 ≤ fb < 24	0.70
5	24 ≤ fb < 37.5	0.60
6	37.5 ≤ fb < 52.5	0.40
7	fb > 71	0.15”