

## Your response

Question	Your response
<p><b>Question 1: (Section 4) Do you agree with our proposals on the coverage obligations as set out in this section? Please give reasons supported by evidence for your views.</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 2: (Section 5) Do you agree that we have identified the correct competition concerns?</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 3: (Section 5) Do you agree with our assessment of these competition concerns, and our proposed measure for addressing them? Please give reasons supported by evidence for your views.</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 4: (Section 6) Do you agree with our proposal to proceed with a conventional assignment stage?</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 5: (Section 7) Do you agree with our proposal to use a CCA design for this award?</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 6: (Section 7) Do you have any comments on the proposed detailed rules for our CCA design?</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 7: (Section 8) Do you agree with our proposed approach to coexistence in the 700 MHz band?</b></p>	<p>Immediate is highly supportive of an approach which enables ongoing long term access to the spectrum for DTT through extending Arqiva's operating licence in the Centre Gap.</p> <p>Benefits include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. providing 21 additional channels to Freeview viewers, enabling the free-to-air platform to better compete with other HD orientated subscription platforms and access to a broader range of SD services</li> <li>2. creating a route for broadcasters who are unable to gain sufficient capacity on other multiplexes, increasing competition and opportunity.</li> <li>3. incentivising viewer take up of HD receivers potentially opening up fuller HD options in the future.</li> </ol>

	<p>4. avoiding the removal of services loved by viewers and the disruption and annoyance this will inevitably create.</p> <p>Immediate considers the approach you are proposing to ensure that MNO-funded viewer support is in place to assist customers suffering from interference to their TV signals is positive, however there is a risk that your non-prescriptive approach creates multiple solutions and a confusing and difficult to navigate landscape for viewers, particularly vulnerable viewers. In addition, excluding from this support infrastructure accountability for these solutions for supporting issues with Arqiva-operated channels in the centre gap, which may still be transmitting, will create additional and unnecessary frustration and confusion.</p> <p>Viewers, particularly vulnerable viewers, need a single port of call for assistance and access to filters, and will not be aware of whether their favourite channel is a mainstream channel or an Arqiva operated centre gap channel, or know which of potentially multiple call centres to call. A single customer-centric entity to support viewers and address reception issues should be maintained no matter what the issue or channel origin.</p>
<p><b>Question 8: (Section 8) Do you have any comments on the proposed licence obligation and guidance note (annex 19)?</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 9: (Section 9) Do you agree with our proposed approach to managing interim protections for registered 3.6-3.8 GHz band users?</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 10: (Section 9) Do you agree with our 3.6-3.8 GHz in-band restriction zone proposals?</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 11: (Section 9) Do you agree with our view that we do not need to include any specific conditions in 3.6-3.8 GHz licences to mitigate the risk of adjacent band interference?</b></p>	
<p><b>Question 12: (Section 10) Do you agree</b></p>	<p>OFCOM has a statutory duty to facilitate</p>

**with the non-technical conditions that we propose to include in the licences to be issued after the award of the 700 MHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz bands?**

optimal spectrum use and we support the recommendation to allow Arqiva to continue to use the centre gap for the interim multiplexes if it is not used by the MNOs.

We believe this is highly likely due to the lack of readiness of the MNOs to deploy SDL services in the duplex gap by June 2020, for reasons including:

1. There are currently no handsets in existence which can use this spectrum.
2. It will take time for handset penetration to reach any significant level even when these handsets are available.
3. There are still no operators licensed in the EU to use the duplex gap - the two recent actions in Italy and Sweden had zero bidders.

With this in mind, Immediate considers that it is not a workable solution only to extend Arqiva's licence on a rolling monthly basis. This does not recognise the reality of how DTT multiplex contracts are entered into. These contracts are complex and time-consuming to negotiate. Businesses require a level of certainty in order to enter into such agreements. As a business user of this spectrum, for it to be practical for Immediate to be able to use it on a rolling basis, we would require a minimum 9-12 month notice window in order to find alternative distribution for our channels, otherwise we would have to assume, as is now, that the contracts expire in June 2020 and move our business at that time.

This risks a period of fallow spectrum use as neither the DTT providers nor the MNOs would be efficiently using this part of the spectrum, conflicting with Ofcom's statutory duty.

Is a usage bar is being set by OFCOM to ensure that there are enough handsets, users etc to justify the clearance of DTT services and maintain efficiency spectrum use?

**Question 13: (Section 11) Do you agree with the technical licence conditions we propose?**

