

# Ofcom/CAA Joint Statement on use of 978 MHz for UAS and change in audio PMSE access

Ofcom and the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) are making 978 MHz available for airborne transmission onboard Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) from today, 11 March 2025. This will enable the use of additional safety equipment (Universal Access Transceiver or UAT) to make other aircraft aware of their position. This change supports longer distance operations, such as going beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS), and is part of a wider Government [Future Of Flight action plan](#) and the CAA's [Airspace Modernisation strategy](#).

Use of the 978 MHz frequencies for UAT is standardised internationally, and Ofcom's licence includes a reference to the relevant CAA document ([CAP 1391](#)).

The frequencies used at 978 MHz are part of an aeronautical navigation band that is currently shared with low power radio microphones used for programme making and special events (PMSE). The sharing arrangements were introduced in Ofcom's 2016 Statement on [New Spectrum for Audio PMSE](#). That Statement made it clear that, as the aeronautical use changes, we will update the availability of PMSE spectrum, in a way that maintains aeronautical safety, via agreement with the CAA.

## **How to secure or update an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operator Radio Licence to use these frequencies**

Ofcom previously set out its decision to enable the use of UAT 978 in its 2022 Statement on [Spectrum for Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\)](#).

The licence is available for £75 at [Ofcom's website](#).

Ofcom has already authorised some of this equipment via its Innovation and Trial licences – those licensees may continue to operate under current terms for the duration of their licences, and/or apply for an operational licence as above.

## **Changes to rules on Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) sharing**

Following established processes, Ofcom and the CAA have agreed to update the availability of the PMSE spectrum. The following changes have taken effect:

- We will no longer licence PMSE for **outdoor** events between the frequencies of 976.5 to 979.5 MHz.
- We will continue to licence these frequencies for **indoor PMSE use**, as the likelihood of interference into UAT in this situation is negligible. We also believe the likelihood of interference into indoor PMSE is extremely low.
- We will allow additional PMSE use at the following additional frequencies: 1015-1016 MHz; 1044-1045 MHz; 1075-1076 MHz and 1104 to 1105 MHz.

Ofcom and the CAA consider that any risk of interference from this additional use is again negligible. Ofcom also amended [IR2038](#) to allow PMSE equipment to access this spectrum.

This decision was supported by tests conducted by JCSys. The test reports are available on request until they can be released in an accessible format. Ofcom and the CAA have also updated the Safety Assurance Case for this band, and we have published an [addendum to the Spectrum Management Rules](#) for this band.