

making communications work for everyone

Your response

Question	Your response
Question 1: Have we correctly identified the key changes in the utilities sector that could lead to additional spectrum requirements?	No comment Confidential? – N
Question 2: What alternative communication solutions might play a role in meeting the future operational communication needs of the utilities sector, alongside or instead of additional spectrum for a private network?	No comment Confidential? – N
Question 3: Are there any other spectrum bands we should consider for use by utilities?	No comment Confidential?— N
Question 4: Do you have any comments on the three bandwidths we have considered that might be necessary to support a private network for utilities? Please reference our capacity analysis in annex 7 where relevant.	No comment Confidential? – N
Question 5: Do you have any comments on our approach to examining each potential candidate spectrum band, including the factors relevant to assessing suitability, and the capacity and coverage analysis provided in annexes 7 and 8?	No comment Confidential? – N

Question 6: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 400 MHz band in NI? Please consider the specific factors we have discussed in your response.	No comment Confidential? – N
Question 7: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 450 MHz band in GB and NI? Please consider the specific factors we have discussed (including the coexistence analysis in annex 9) in your response.	No comment Confidential? – N
Question 8: Do you consider that changes in the spectrum environment for the 450 MHz band mean that there is a case for re- examining whether this band should be reconfigured in the UK to align with the harmonised band plan?	No comment Confidential? – N
Question 9: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 700 MHz band in GB and NI? Please consider the specific factors we have discussed in your response.	Confidential? – N ESN is a key government priority to set up a critical national infrastructure supporting the emergency services and other public safety responders with resilient broadband data and voice capabilities. Device to device communication is an important part of ESN which enables emergency service personnel to hold off-net communications. For the device to device communication in ESN, the Home Office has been in discussions with Ofcom for 733-738MHz.
Question 10: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 800/900 MHz band in NI? Please consider the specific factors we have discussed in your response.	No comment Confidential? – N

Question 11: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 1900 MHz band in GB and	Confidential? – N
have discussed in your response.	ESN is a key government priority to set up a critical national infrastructure supporting the emergency services and other public safety responders with resilient broadband data and voice capabilities. ESN has to have 100% assured
	geographical coverage for emergency services to carry out their mandate of saving lives and property. In practical terms, the coverage of EE is not assured across 100% of the geographical area of Great Britain. In operational scenarios where ESN signal coverage is uncertain, a deployed vehicle gateway device can provide temporary coverage extension of a nearby macro cell coverage or creating a coverage bubble.
	EE's deliverables for ESN includes gateway functionality and development of this gateway utilises EE's holding of 1900-1910MHz band. EE and Parallel Wireless have successfully designed, built, and verified this gateway capability to operate in this band.
	Although this EE unpaired spectrum is currently not in use, it has been developed and ready for use. We anticipate a steady uptake of gateway devices when users migrate to ESN from Airwave. Assigning this band to utilities will impact the deployment of these gateways, which in turn will impact ESN deployment.
	Though a suitable alternative spectrum is a possible option, there is a concern that it will increase costs of ESN as well as the timelines. As the gateways have already been developed for the 1900 – 1910MHz band, a change will require redesigning and redevelopment increasing timelines as well as costs. Also current ESN terminals, Samsung, support this band while there is no assurance of the availability of LTE terminal chipsets supporting alternative spectrum.

Question 12: Which band(s) do you consider we should examine further with a view to developing consultation proposals to enable their use in a private network, if this were needed? Please reference the factors we have considered where appropriate and provide separate answers for GB and NI if relevant. No comment

Confidential? – N