

Strengthening the UK's radio spectrum regulatory framework for innovation

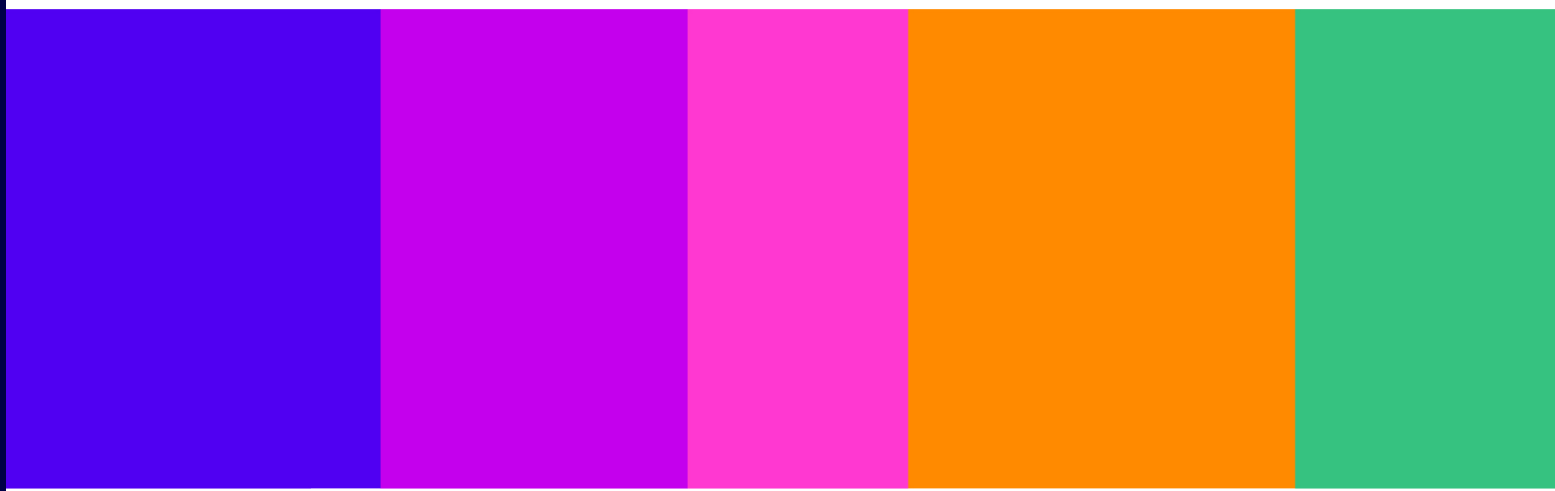
Fostering wireless innovation in the UK

Call for input

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For more information on this publication, please visit [ofcom.org.uk](https://www.ofcom.org.uk)



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1. Overview

- 1.1 Wireless technologies are transforming the way we live, work, and connect. From mobile phones connecting to a satellite when in an area without coverage, to drones delivering vital supplies to rural communities, innovation in wireless technology is creating new opportunities to drive economic growth, improve public services, and solve real-world challenges. At the heart of this innovation is access to radio spectrum.
- 1.2 The radio spectrum is a finite resource. As the UK's spectrum regulator, Ofcom has a key statutory role under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 and Communications Act 2003 in ensuring that spectrum is available in ways that support innovation and growth while safeguarding this valuable national resource and promoting its efficient use.
- 1.3 We have a strong track record of enabling new wireless services, with recent examples including enabling satellite [direct-to-device \(D2D\) services](#), [Shared Access licensing](#) for private networks, and consulting on sharing in the [6 GHz band between Wi-Fi and mobile services](#). We also currently issue over 750 Innovation and Trial licences each year. These licences are intended to allow the testing and trial of new products and radio equipment. As wireless technologies evolve and demand for spectrum increases, we want to ensure that our licensing framework remains fit for the future and continues to support innovation, investment and growth.
- 1.4 Through this Call for Input (CFI), we want to hear from innovators, researchers, spectrum users, and other stakeholders about what Ofcom should do next to support wireless innovation and help the UK remain a leading place to develop, trial, and deploy new wireless technologies.

What we are proposing – in brief

This Call for Input (CFI) asks for your views on how our licensing framework could be improved to better support the innovative use of radio spectrum. We are interested in your views on several key areas where challenges may arise. These include:

- whether our current licensing framework for supporting spectrum innovation remains effective in a rapidly evolving environment;
- identifying any barriers that may hinder the research, development, testing and deployment of innovative wireless technologies; and
- exploring how our licensing approach could evolve to better support innovation while continuing to ensure efficient spectrum use and protection for existing users.

Your response will feed into our review of innovation licensing, which is considering how our spectrum licensing framework can support the development of innovative wireless technologies for the future. We ask for comments by 5pm on 30 September 2026.

- 1.5 Throughout this review we are also keen to engage directly with stakeholders who have firsthand experience in this area. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact innovationreview@ofcom.org.uk. The responses we receive will help inform our priorities for future work. We plan to consult on specific proposals in early 2027.

The overview section in this document is a simplified high-level summary only. The questions on which we are seeking views and our reasoning are set out in the full document.

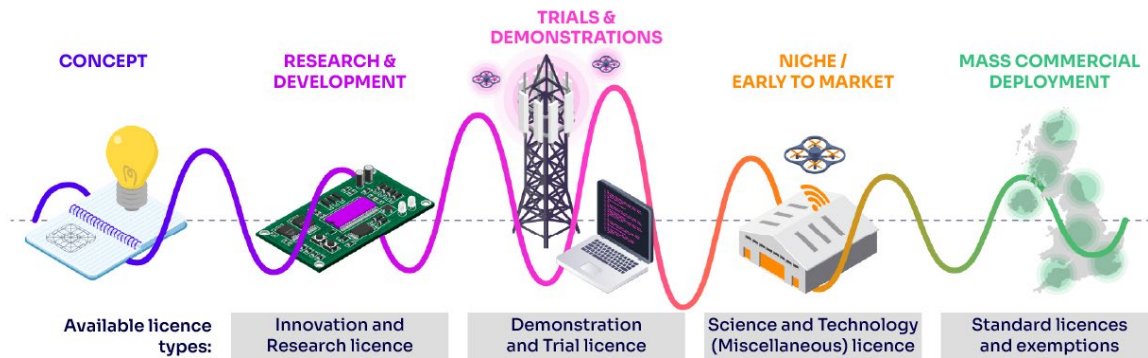
2. Current support for innovative spectrum use in the UK

- 2.1 The sectors we regulate continue to innovate and this innovation can take many forms. It may involve entirely new services, such as the rapid growth of Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO) satellite systems and the development of new technologies such as 6G. It can also involve improvements to existing technologies by making radio equipment more spectrally efficient, adding new frequency bands or supporting a new type of device such as drones.
- 2.2 When we develop standard Ofcom spectrum authorisations – in the form of licences or licence exemptions¹ – suited for mass commercial deployment, it often follows international rule setting for spectrum access and equipment standards. We identify current and future developments through engaging with stakeholders, participate in international rule setting, and carry out sector reviews. Recent examples include our [6 GHz sharing proposals](#) and [Maritime Review](#).
- 2.3 We offer some licences that are explicitly for developing new wireless devices and technologies, known as Innovation and Trial licences. The aim of these licences is to provide access to spectrum, allowing licensees to conduct research on, develop and trial innovative wireless technologies. We discuss these further in section 3.
- 2.4 We take a different more custom approach to these licences than those that allow commercial deployments. Limited deployment allows for a lighter weight approach than broadly deployed commercial licences that require a higher degree of assurance, particularly in relation to interference risk and coexistence issues.
- 2.5 On occasion, we also receive requests for longer-term commercial access to spectrum that do not fall under one of our standard licence products. These are typically for niche use cases required by a single operator to carry out a specific task, or where companies may wish to trial commercial services ahead of international decisions. We refer to these as “special” or “bespoke” licensing requests. Examples have included eLoran, Railway Level-Crossing radars, Starlink’s temporary access to E band for satellite gateways, and Amazon’s recent drone delivery service.
- 2.6 We take different approaches to these applications depending on the nature of the request. In some cases, we have amended the terms of an existing product using a Notice of Variation or created a brand-new licence type. In other cases, we use the Science and Technology (Miscellaneous) licence to create a bespoke licence. We discuss this in section 4.
- 2.7 As set out above, throughout the different stages of the equipment development life cycle, we have different licences. These range from those needed to help researchers develop new concepts to full commercial operations. Figure 1 below provides an overview of this.

¹ We have powers to make regulations that exempt devices from the need to hold a licence. If certain criteria set out in the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 is met we must licence exempt the equipment.

- 2.8 We encourage innovators to engage with us as early as possible where they anticipate a spectrum requirement. This helps us understand their needs and explore the most appropriate authorisation solution.

Figure 1: Overview of authorisation options for different stages of development and deployment of wireless technologies



Our objectives for this work

- 2.9 As wireless technologies and spectrum use continue to evolve rapidly, it is important that our regulatory approach remains flexible and agile to effectively support innovation. We are therefore reviewing our current approach on how we support innovative spectrum use to assess whether it remains fit for the future, and how it could be improved.
- 2.10 The objectives of this CFI are to:
- understand whether our current licensing framework for supporting spectrum innovation remains effective in a rapidly evolving environment;
 - identify any barriers that may hinder the research, development, testing and deployment of innovative wireless technologies; and
 - explore how our licensing approach could evolve to better support innovation while continuing to ensure efficient spectrum use and protection for existing users.
- 2.11 We are not proposing specific regulatory changes or any detailed proposals at this time.² Instead, we are gathering views and evidence to inform potential future work. However, to prompt this discussion, we have identified some high-level areas in which we think change could further support innovation. We are interested in your thoughts and whether you agree with these areas of focus, and how much of a priority you consider them to be. Our views may change based on your feedback.

Learning from international best practice

- 2.12 Other spectrum administrations have their own processes to support innovation. We monitor and speak with fellow regulators from around the world including those in the [European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations](#) (CEPT)³ and further afield like the [Federal Communications Commission](#) (USA), the [Australian](#)

² As we are not making proposals or policy decisions in this document, it does not contain an impact assessment, equality impact assessment or Welsh language impact assessment. When we make formal proposals in future we will carry out and publish an assessment of their impact.

³ Made up of 46 European administrators

[Communications and Media](#) Authority (Australia) and [Innovation, Science and Economic Development](#) (Canada). As part of your response, we are interested in any experiences or views of approaches used by other regulators so that we can learn from best practice internationally.

3. Innovation and Trial licensing

- 3.1 Our Innovation and Trial licensing regime is made up of two different licence products, Innovation & Research and Demonstration & Trial. The licences are designed to enable flexible and low-barrier use of radio spectrum for research, development, and demonstration purposes. Through these licences, we allow organisations to access spectrum on a temporary, non-interference no-protection basis,⁴ with a simple application process, proportionate technical requirements, and low-cost licences.
- 3.2 The Innovation and Research licence is designed to support organisations to research and develop their equipment at one of their sites.
- 3.3 The Demonstration and Trial licence allows stakeholders to take the next step and trial the equipment at a particular site or area. These trials can involve third parties including the public.

Table 1: Innovation and Trial licence characteristics

	Innovation & Research	Demonstration & Trial
Purpose	Develop and test innovative wireless equipment, undertake academic or scientific research at a specific location	Enable trials and demonstrations of radio concepts, wireless applications or services at a specific location or in an area
Authorisation basis	Non-commercial and non-operational	Non-commercial and non-operational
Protection	Non-interference no-protection	Non-interference no-protection
Trials	Does not permit public trials	Permits third/public parties to participate in a trial
Cost	£50 per year single location	£50 per location per month

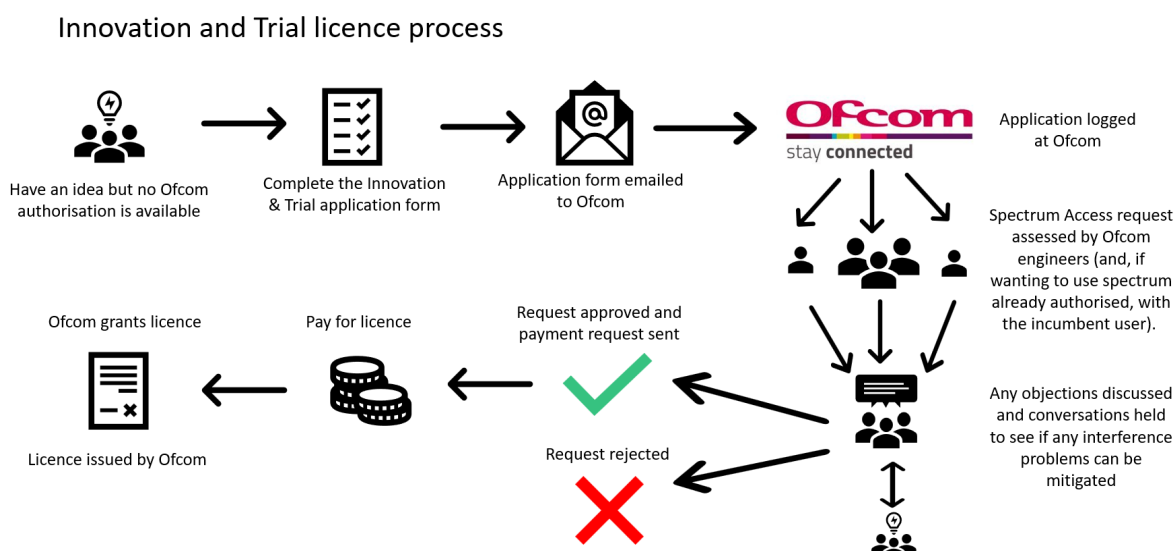
Licensing process

- 3.4 The application process for Innovation and Trial licences is set out below and in Figure 2:
- Applicant completes an application form and emails it to Ofcom.
 - The Innovation Licensing team will then review the application and proceed to co-ordinate the request with spectrum managers (both within Ofcom and externally⁵) who normally have 30 days to respond.
 - If any comments or rejections are received, the team will liaise with the applicant and spectrum manager to see if a compromise can be reached.
 - If agreed, a request for payment is sent out or if not, a rejection letter is sent.
 - Once payment is received, the licence is prepared and issued.

⁴ This means that it is a licence condition that they must not cause interference to other authorised users but at the same time cannot claim any protection from interference they receive from those users.

⁵ Examples include Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Defence, Maritime & Coastguard Agency, Home Office and Mobile Network Operators.

Figure 2: Overview of the Innovation and Trial licensing process



- 3.5 The process from the submission of an application to issuing a licence can take up to 60 days depending on the size and complexity of the proposals, the degree of negotiation required, and time taken for the applicant to pay for the licence. In practice, around 70% of Innovation and Trial licence applications are processed within 42 days and around 96% in 60 days.

Potential areas of focus for future changes

- 3.6 We are interested in your experiences with our Innovation and Trial licence process, and your views on how we can improve the process going forward. We have identified some potential areas where we think there may be scope for change.

Would enabling more commercial trial activity help make the transition to commercial deployment easier?

- 3.7 We would like to enable a smoother transition from development, trialling and demonstration to commercial deployment. This transition is a key challenge within the current licensing framework. While our Innovation and Trial licensing regime plays an important role in supporting early-stage testing, and does permit some third-party activity, it does not permit operational or commercial use such as larger (or paid) trials, nor does it provide users with long-term access to spectrum.
- 3.8 As a result, a new licence is needed when stakeholders are ready to move from initial experimentation to large trials or other early real-world deployments, particularly where technologies remain novel and equipment standards are still evolving.
- 3.9 To bridge this gap, we are considering whether it might be appropriate to change our approach to allow Demonstration and Trial licensees to conduct larger scale time-limited commercial trials, to enable services to be tested in more realistic operating conditions. However, this would need to create no additional interference risk for other authorised spectrum uses. Further, there could be no expectation of long-term access to spectrum for such uses, nor that any future authorisations would necessarily be granted on the same terms.

- 3.10 We would like to know your views on the challenges you face in the transition from testing and trialling to commercial deployment, and whether updating our rules to allow commercial trials (involving payments by third parties/customers) could help address some of these challenges. If you are an incumbent user (i.e. a company already authorised to use those frequencies), what would you want to see in terms of safeguards.

Question 1: Do you think we should permit more commercial trial activity under the Demonstration and Trial licence (including with paying customers) and whether we should impose any limitations on this?

Question 2: Do you have any other suggestions for how the transition from trial to commercial deployment could be improved?

Could we issue longer-term Innovation and Trial licences for some users?

- 3.11 Some companies and organisations, such as universities, manufacturers and test houses, carry out multiple trials each year at the same location on an ongoing basis. Currently, for each trial they need to apply for a new licence or reapply for a new licence every twelve months, as the Innovation and Research licence is not renewable. This renewal process can sometimes lead to gaps in authorisation if an application is not submitted in time. The process of reapplying can also create an administrative burden to both licensees and Ofcom.
- 3.12 To make this process more efficient for licensees, we could consider:
- increasing the duration of our licences or allow for renewal without going through the full application and coordination process again;
 - enabling specific types of users, such as universities or test houses, to reflect their specialist/ accredited role in research and development of equipment, to have longer-term access; or
 - designate that at certain locations e.g. military ranges or rural test sites, longer-term licences are available.

Question 3: Do you think it would be beneficial to enable some longer-term licensing options for Innovation and Trial licences?

Should we look at setting transmission threshold limits for coordination?

- 3.13 At present we assess each Innovation and Trial licence application to consider potential interference risks, often seeking third party views. This introduces delay into the application process.
- 3.14 We think that in many cases Innovation and Trial licence applications could be approved more quickly if the proposed operating powers were sufficiently low and /or a site is sufficiently remote that the proposed activity would not be expected to carry any material interference risk to other band users. In these cases, it could be proportionate not to consult with third parties or undertake fuller technical assessments.
- 3.15 For this approach to work in some frequency bands it would mean working with incumbent users, including Government departments and agencies to define what these limits could be.

- 3.16 We are interested in views as to whether this is something that we should look to investigate further given the amount of work it might take to define some limits.

Question 4: Do you think it would be beneficial to enable faster processing of low power Innovation and Trial licence applications, based on lighter-touch assessment? Are there any particular frequency bands or locations Ofcom should look to prioritise?

Other suggestions

- 3.17 As part of this CFI, we would welcome any other suggestions or comments relating to how we could look to streamline or our current Innovation and Trial licensing regime more flexible. We would especially welcome comments from those who have used the process to obtain a licence.

Question 5: Do you have any other suggestions for improving Ofcom's current approach to Innovation and Trial licensing?

4. Special requests and bespoke licensing

- 4.1 In recent years we have seen increased requests for spectrum for innovative commercial or operational use cases for which there are no suitable licences available. Whilst we seek to consider these as quickly as possible, we are looking at whether our approach to these requests can be improved. Our goals would be to reduce the time taken to grant these authorisations and reduce the administrative burden on stakeholders (and Ofcom).

Licensing approach

- 4.2 Where someone wishes to use spectrum in a way that is not authorised through existing licences or licence exemptions, applicants can submit a request to Ofcom outlining their proposed use and any supporting technical information. Given the novel nature of these requests, unlike Innovation or Trial licences there is no standard assessment framework or timeframe for processing these applications.
- 4.3 To decide whether we can grant a licence, we need to consider several factors as described in our Wireless Telegraphy Act duties. Our assessment can vary depending on the nature of the proposed use case and the requested frequency band, but typically includes at least an assessment of potential benefits, likelihood of harmful interference to incumbents, and competitive considerations.
- 4.4 To do our assessment, we may require supporting evidence or carry out our own studies. In some cases, particularly where potential impacts on competition or interference arise, a consultation may be required, or we may need to initiate a broader policy review.
- 4.5 Consequently, complex requests can take a significant amount of time to evaluate before a decision can be made.
- 4.6 Depending on the request, we may grant access to spectrum in a few different ways:
- **Granting a bespoke licence:** this involves designing and specifying the terms and conditions of the licence, including the technical conditions that will apply and how long the licence is granted for, as well as how much the licence will cost. For one-off requests, in many cases we will grant a Science and Technology (Miscellaneous) licence. Alternatively, we may create a new licence type. An example is the [Temporary E band Non-Geostationary Earth Station](#) licence we created to authorise use of E band gateways ahead of WRC-27, or the [Enhanced Long-Range Navigation \(ELORAN\)](#) licence. Where we identify potential impact on other spectrum users, including potential wider demand, we have consulted on these.
 - **Amending an existing licence:** In cases where the requested use is similar to an existing licensed use, instead of creating a bespoke new licence we may authorise the new use by varying the terms of the existing licence type.
- 4.7 These requests are usually granted on a non-interference no-protection basis.

Potential areas of focus for future changes

- 4.8 We are keen to explore whether changes to our framework or processes could provide greater clarity and enable faster decisions, while continuing to ensure efficient spectrum use and appropriate protection for existing users.
- 4.9 We have identified some potential areas of focus in which we think there is potential scope for change.

How should we manage coexistence risk when considering bespoke authorisations?

- 4.10 Generally, we undertake a greater level of detailed technical assessment when we create or grant licences for operational and commercial use than we do for small-scale research and trial uses. A more comprehensive analysis is required as the broader, ongoing and commercial use increase the impact of any harmful interference to existing users. However, such deep technical assessment requires more significant resource (and therefore cost) and increases the time it takes to grant licences. We are open to the opportunity for more targeted approaches to managing technical uncertainty.
- 4.11 We have identified several potential options that could better balance risks of harmful interference and time to licence.

Faster access for certain categories of applications

- 4.12 Innovative spectrum uses often lack the coexistence studies and technical evidence needed to demonstrate that they can operate without causing harmful interference. Developing this evidence can be time-consuming and resource intensive, increasing the time needed to reach a decision. Although international bodies such as [CEPT](#), [International Telecoms Union](#) and [ETSI](#) help develop harmonised approaches, these processes can take years, which may be difficult for innovators seeking rapid deployment.
- 4.13 We already take a risk-based approach when determining the extent of the technical analysis required for a request. Our risk assessment depends on factors such as the proposed use, location and the incumbent users of the relevant spectrum band. However, we could consider whether there is scope to take a less conservative approach in cases where the risk of harmful interference appears low. To support this, we could develop a process for identifying categories of applications that may be suitable for a faster assessment.
- 4.14 For example, where a proposed use is low power or located in a remote area, an initial high-level coexistence assessment may indicate that the risk of interference is low. In such cases, it may be possible to provide access more quickly on a non-interference, no-protection basis. This could enable faster access to spectrum for innovative applications while continuing to provide safeguards for existing users.⁶
- 4.15 We could also explore the potential to designate “low risk trial zones” in geographic areas where we consider the risk of interference is likely to be lower for many bands.
- 4.16 Alternatively, we could consider whether there is merit in establishing a regulatory sandbox framework for certain locations, technologies or spectrum bands. Unlike

⁶ There would also be scope to revoke or amend the authorisation in the event that undue interference was caused to another authorised spectrum user.

Innovation and Trial licences, this could facilitate more extended operational or commercial use under defined conditions. This could enable innovative spectrum uses to be deployed and evaluated while managing any remaining coexistence risks.

- 4.17 Reducing the amount of technical evidence required – where proportionate - could result in a simpler and faster authorisation process. This reduction will need to be balanced against potential increase the likelihood of interference issues arising. However, where a user causes interference, Ofcom could use its licence and enforcement powers to require that user to modify or cease its operations.

Question 6: Are there new approaches to managing coexistence for bespoke spectrum licensing requests that we should implement to speed up the process?

Whether more of the responsibility for technical analysis should sit with the applicant

- 4.18 For requests where detailed technical analysis is required, these use the time and effort of our spectrum engineers which needs to be prioritised across all work items in the spectrum work program.
- 4.19 While we aim to support bespoke requests where possible in line with our aim to encourage innovation and growth, it may not be possible if coexistence scenarios are overly complex or the overall volume of such requests continue to increase.
- 4.20 An option we have considered is that if more of this analysis were carried out by the applicant rather than Ofcom it may enable us to consider more applications or take a lighter-touch approach.
- 4.21 Although Ofcom would likely need to continue to carry out some verification of the analysis provided, it could result in requests being processed faster. It may also mean that applicants identify potential coexistence issues at an earlier stage, reducing the need for a lengthy back and forth with Ofcom.
- 4.22 We are interested in stakeholders' views on what obstacles, if any, would prevent them from carrying out this analysis and what Ofcom could do to overcome these, for example additional information we could make available.

Question 7: Do you think that there should be a greater expectation for applicants to provide the coexistence analysis to support their bespoke spectrum requests?

How important is security of tenure to new entrants

- 4.23 Another important consideration is the degree of security of tenure that should be provided to innovative spectrum users seeking access beyond the Innovation and Trial regime. Too short a period could stifle innovation and the market as it does not provide a sufficient period for a return on investment. But too long risks spectrum being left unused if the technology fails or the adoption rate is low and may constrain us from authorising higher value uses that may emerge in the future, constraining innovation by others. This risk can be mitigated if we retain flexibility to reassign spectrum where a higher value use emerges.
- 4.24 How this can be achieved without unduly discouraging investment and innovation is something we would appreciate views on.

4.25 An option could be to issue bespoke licences for a defined period, for example three to five years, to provide greater certainty to support investment, operational deployment and commercialisation. This could be combined with a standard notice period, such as one year, allowing Ofcom to revoke licences where there is evidence that an alternative use would deliver greater benefits to citizens and consumers.⁷

4.26 We already have examples of similar approaches in our existing licensing products:

- Our Local Access licensing regime enables the shared use of some of the spectrum that is already licensed on a national basis to mobile network operators (MNOs) in locations where a particular frequency is not being used.⁸ The default period for these licences is three years but can be extended if agreement is reached with the incumbent licensee. We could consider whether this model can be extended to other bands, including non-mobile spectrum bands where spectrum has been licensed over a geographic area. The Local Access model helps to secure efficient use of spectrum by enabling spectrum to be used where it is currently unused. However, there is no guarantee of renewal and longer-term access, as the incumbent user's circumstances may have changed.
- In our 2025 decision to authorise [temporary NGSO gateway access to E band](#) we made the new licences available for a fixed period until 31 December 2028, with interim technical conditions to facilitate coexistence ahead of the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2027 (WRC-27).⁹ This allows satellite operators to make use of the band now, and to deliver benefits to UK consumers, without prejudging the outcome of the international decisions or our future licensing decisions. The licences also had a one-month notice period for revocation for spectrum management reasons, to allow us to revoke the licences in a timely manner in the event of harmful interference that cannot otherwise be resolved.

Question 8: What do you think is the minimum security of tenure needed to support innovative uses?

Question 9: Should we consider extending the Local Access licensing regime to other bands and technologies?

4.27 In addition to the potential areas we have identified above, we welcome your views about other ways that we can change our licensing approach to better support innovation.

Question 10: What do you think should be Ofcom's focus in updating how we licence spectrum to support wireless innovation? Do you have any other comments or views on the issues discussed?

⁷ This is shorter than for many of our standard licence products, which require five years' notice of revocation for spectrum management reasons.

⁸ A list of frequencies is available in our [Local Access Guidance](#). When we receive an application, we engage with the relevant MNO. Unless the operator raises a reasonable objection (e.g. they are using the spectrum at that location, or they are planning to do so within the time period requested, or the transmitter would cause interference to nearby deployments), Ofcom will issue a licence. We charge a one-off fee of £950.

⁹ Limits for the protection of terrestrial services from satellite services are still to be defined in the Radio Regulations for E band, as are conditions for the protection of adjacent band EESS (passive) operations. Several elements of this framework are expected to be established at WRC-27.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 The feedback we receive through this CFI will help inform future policy proposals. While we are keen to hear a wide range of views and ideas, any changes we take forward will need to be consistent with our statutory duties and regulatory principles.¹⁰ We also recognise that some barriers to innovation may fall outside Ofcom's remit.

Any proposed solutions will need to be compatible with our duties

- 5.2 When carrying out our role, as required by the [Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006](#), we must consider several factors. Alongside our duties to promote innovation and economic growth, we must also consider the promotion of competition, ensuring secure and reliable networks, managing spectrum to meet diverse user needs, and reflecting the varied interests of different UK communities.
- 5.3 We are also required to operate according to good regulatory principles, these being that decisions and processes should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent and targeted only where action is necessary.

We are also interested in understanding non-spectrum barriers to wireless innovation

- 5.4 We are aware that there may be other barriers to innovation other than access to spectrum. For example, equipment standardisation processes (both within the UK and internationally). Where these issues do not fall under Ofcom's remit, we would look to use any information provided to help inform other parties, including government, of obstacles that may hinder wireless innovation in the UK.

Question 11: Are there any other significant non-spectrum barriers to innovation for wireless services that you encounter?

Next steps

- 5.5 Your input to this CFI will enable us to ensure that our regime helps to encourage investment, accelerate technological development and that the UK remains an attractive environment for wireless innovation. We ask that you respond by 30 September 2026.
- 5.6 We are also keen to meet with stakeholders to hear about their experiences and views. If you would like to request a meeting, please contact innovationreview@ofcom.org.uk and provide an overview of what you may wish to discuss. While we may not be able to accommodate all requests, we will seek to engage with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible.
- 5.7 Once we have considered the responses from stakeholders, we will develop proposals for consultation. We plan to come forward with these in early 2027.

¹⁰ Full details of the legal framework Ofcom operates under can be found in [Annex 2 of our consultation on Future use of 2GHz MSS](#).

A1. Responding to this consultation

How to respond

- A1.1 Ofcom would like to receive views and comments on the issues raised in this document, by 5pm on 30 September 2026.
- A1.2 You can download a response form from <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/innovative-use-of-spectrum/strengthening-the-uks-radio-spectrum-regulatory-framework-for-innovation>. You can return this by email or post to the address provided in the response form.
- A1.3 If your response is a large file, or has supporting charts, tables or other data, please email it to innovationreview@ofcom.org.uk, as an attachment in Microsoft Word format, together with the cover sheet.
- A1.4 We welcome responses in formats other than print, for example an audio recording or a British Sign Language video. To respond in BSL:
- > send us a recording of you signing your response. This should be no longer than 5 minutes. Suitable file formats are DVDs, wmv or QuickTime files; or
 - > upload a video of you signing your response directly to YouTube (or another hosting site) and send us the link.
- A1.5 We will publish a transcript of any audio or video responses we receive (unless your response is confidential)
- A1.6 We do not need a paper copy of your response as well as an electronic version. We will acknowledge receipt of a response submitted to us by email.
- A1.7 You do not have to answer all the questions in the consultation if you do not have a view; a short response on just one point is fine. We also welcome joint responses.
- A1.8 It would be helpful if your response could include direct answers to the questions asked in the consultation document. The questions are listed at Annex X. It would also help if you could explain why you hold your views, and what you think the effect of Ofcom's proposals would be.
- A1.9 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, please contact us by email to innovationreview@ofcom.org.uk.

Confidentiality

- A1.10 Consultations are more effective if we publish the responses before the consultation period closes. This can help people and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. So, in the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, and because we believe it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other respondents' views, we usually publish responses on the Ofcom website at regular intervals during and after the consultation period.
- A1.11 If you think your response should be kept confidential, please specify which part(s) this applies to and explain why. Please send any confidential sections as a separate annex. If

you want your name, address, other contact details or job title to remain confidential, please provide them only in the cover sheet, so that we don't have to edit your response.

- A1.12 If someone asks us to keep all or part of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and try to respect it. It is however for Ofcom to decide whether or not information is confidential. Sometimes we may consider it necessary to publish all or part of a response, including those that are marked as confidential (for example, so we can explain our decisions and people can understand our reasoning or in order to meet legal obligations).

Where this is the case (and the relevant information is not already in the public domain), we will normally first explain our intention to publish information from your response and give you the opportunity to raise concerns about the proposed publication. We will generally try to resolve any objections you may have through constructive dialogue. If we remain of the view that we need to publish all or part of your response and you continue to object, we will give you advance warning prior to publication.

- A1.13 To fulfil our pre-disclosure duty, we may share a copy of your response with the relevant government department before we publish it on our website.
- A1.14 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's intellectual property rights are explained further in our Terms of Use.

Next steps

- A1.15 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish consultation proposals in early 2027.
- A1.16 If you wish, you can register to receive mail updates alerting you to new Ofcom publications.

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.17 Ofcom aims to make responding to a consultation as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex A2.
- A1.18 If you have any comments or suggestions on how we manage our consultations, please email us at consult@ofcom.org.uk. We particularly welcome ideas on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of groups or individuals, such as small businesses and residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.
- A1.19 If you would like to discuss these issues, or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally, please contact the corporation secretary:

Corporation Secretary
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
Email: corporationsecretary@ofcom.org.uk

A2. Ofcom's consultation principles

Ofcom has seven principles that it follows for every public written consultation:

Before the consultation

1. Wherever possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation, to find out whether we are thinking along the right lines. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals, shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

2. We will be clear about whom we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.
3. We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible, with an overview of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible for people to give us a written response.
4. When setting the length of the consultation period, we will consider the nature of our proposals and their potential impact. We will always make clear the closing date for responses.
5. A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and aim to reach the largest possible number of people and organisations who may be interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's Consultation Champion is the main person to contact if you have views on the way we run our consultations.
6. If we are not able to follow any of these principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

7. We think it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other people's views, so we usually publish the responses on our website at regular intervals during and after the consultation period. After the consultation we will make our decisions and publish a statement explaining what we are going to do, and why, showing how respondents' views helped to shape these decisions.

A3. Consultation coversheet

Basic details

Consultation title:

To (Ofcom contact):

Name of respondent:

Representing (self or organisation/s):

Address (if not received by email):

Confidentiality

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

- > Nothing ☐
- > Name/contact details/job title ☐
- > Whole response ☐
- > Organisation ☐
- > Part of the response ☐

If you selected 'Part of the response', please specify which parts:

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Declaration

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to publish all responses, including those which are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom aims to publish responses at regular intervals during and after the consultation period. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.

Name

Signed (if hard copy)

A4. Consultation questions

Please tell us how you came across this consultation.

- ☐ Email from Ofcom
- ☐ Saw it on social media
- ☐ Found it on Ofcom's website
- ☐ Found it on another website
- ☐ Heard about it on TV or radio
- ☐ Read about it in a newspaper or magazine
- ☐ Heard about it at an event
- ☐ Somebody told me or shared it with me
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Question 1: Do you think we should permit more commercial trial activity under the Demonstration and Trial licence (including with paying customers) and whether we should impose any limitations on this?

Question 2: Do you have any other suggestions for how the transition from trial to commercial deployment could be improved?

Question 3: Do you think it would be beneficial to enable some longer-term licensing options for Innovation and Trial licences?

Question 4: Do you think it would be beneficial to enable faster processing of low power Innovation and Trial licence applications, based on lighter-touch assessment? Are there any particular frequency bands or locations Ofcom should look to prioritise?

Question 5: Do you have any other suggestions for improving Ofcom's current approach to Innovation and Trial licensing?

Question 6: Are there new approaches to managing coexistence for bespoke spectrum licensing requests that we should implement to speed up the process?

Question 7: Do you think that there should be a greater expectation for applicants to provide the coexistence analysis to support their bespoke spectrum requests?

Question 8: What do you think is the minimum security of tenure needed to support innovative uses?

Question 9: Should we consider extending the Local Access licensing regime to other bands and technologies?

Question 10: What do you think should be Ofcom's focus in updating how we licence spectrum to support wireless innovation? Do you have any other comments or views on the issues discussed?

Question 11: Are there any other significant non-spectrum barriers to innovation for wireless services that you encounter?