

Tables showing updates to the Procedures for the Management of Satellite Filings

- 1.1 This document sets out the changes we have made to the Procedures to reflect our decisions in our March 2026 statement, “Updates to Procedures for the management of satellite filings”.

Section 1

Current version (14 March 2019)	New version (2 March 2026)
<p>1.1 Satellite services are important for business, social and scientific applications, offering a unique ability to deliver communications to many parts of the world not adequately served by other means. In order to operate a satellite network, it is necessary to obtain access to spectrum for the uplink (Earth to space) as well as the downlink (space-to-Earth) path from the satellite to stations in the service area. It is also necessary to secure an orbital position in space for the satellite. A satellite’s orbital position will influence the area of the globe it can serve.</p>	<p>1.1 Satellite and space services are important for an increasing range of business, social and scientific applications. Satellites might use spectrum for a variety of reasons such as: to provide communications services; to monitor the Earth and the atmosphere and transmit the data back to Earth; to provide Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services; or to support lunar or deep space missions. All space services require spectrum for Tracking, Telemetry and Control (TT&C); this allows the satellite operator to communicate with its satellite(s) to ensure safe operation.</p> <p>1.2 In order to operate any space services, operators must obtain access to spectrum for the uplink (Earth to space) as well as the downlink (space-to-Earth) path from the satellite to stations on the ground. Operators also need to secure orbital positions in space for their satellites. A satellite’s orbit, whether a Geostationary Orbit (GSO) or a non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO), will influence the area of the globe the satellite can serve and therefore the way it uses spectrum.</p>
<p>1.2 Spectrum and orbital positions are valuable and limited resources. Radio spectrum is in high demand as mobile and broadband technologies develop and it becomes increasingly challenging to find frequencies to deliver new communications services.</p>	<p>1.3 Spectrum and orbits are valuable and limited resources. Radio spectrum is in high demand as wireless technologies change and develop across a range of sectors. It can become challenging to find frequencies as some spectrum bands become congested. Equally, new technologies can open up opportunities for space services in frequencies that were previously unavailable.</p>

Current version (14 March 2019)

New version (2 March 2026)

1.3 Spectrum and orbital positions have to be managed and planned in order to avoid interference and ensure that adequate separations are maintained between satellites. The international nature of satellite services necessitates that this coordination takes place within a framework of international rules administered by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as further described in section 2 of this document.

1.4 This document describes the procedures that must be followed by companies or other organisations located in the United Kingdom (UK), British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, who submit applications through the UK for the management and processing of satellite filings. It includes details of the coordination and registration processes that are needed to achieve international recognition under the ITU procedures.

1.5 This document describes the roles and responsibilities of Ofcom and the applying operator for each of the different types of application that are currently permitted under the ITU Radio Regulations (Radio Regulations) including:

- a) Article 5 (Frequency allocations);
- b) Article 9 (Procedure for effecting coordination with or obtaining agreement of other administrations); and,
- c) Article 11 (Notification and recording of frequency assignments) and the relevant appendices regarding the procedures for advance publication, coordination and notification of frequency assignments.

1.4 Spectrum and associated orbits therefore have to be managed and planned in order to avoid interference. The international nature of satellite services means that this coordination must take place within a framework of international rules administered by the [International Telecommunication Union](#) (ITU), as further described in section 2 of this document.

1.5 This document describes the procedures that must be followed by companies or other organisations that are registered, or have their headquarters, in the United Kingdom (UK), British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and that wish to submit applications through the UK for the management and processing of satellite filings. It includes details of the coordination and registration processes that are needed to achieve international recognition under the ITU procedures.

1.6 This document describes the roles and responsibilities of Ofcom and the applying operator for each of the different types of application that are currently permitted under the [ITU Radio Regulations](#) (Radio Regulations) including:

- a) Article 5 (Frequency allocations);
- b) Article 9 (Procedure for effecting coordination with or obtaining agreement of other administrations); and,
- c) Article 11 (Notification and recording of frequency assignments) and the relevant appendices regarding the procedures for advance publication, coordination and notification of frequency assignments.

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1.7 Ofcom represents the UK Government in the ITU and acts as the UK notifying administration under the ITU procedures. The general role and functions of Ofcom are set out in section 3 of this document.

1.8 Where appropriate, Ofcom is required to submit data to the ITU so that the frequency assignments can be registered in the ITU Master International Frequency Register (Master Register) and receive international recognition in accordance with Article 8 of the Radio Regulations. The international rights and obligations of administrations regarding their own and other administrations' frequency assignments are derived from the recording of the assignments in the Master Register, or the conformity of the assignments with a frequency plan.

1.8 Ofcom represents the UK Government in the ITU and acts as the UK notifying administration under the ITU procedures. The general role and functions of Ofcom are set out in section 3 of this document. In carrying out this role, we seek to promote efficient use of spectrum, support innovation and growth and enable competition for the benefit of UK consumers.

1.9 Where appropriate, Ofcom is required to submit data to the ITU so that the frequency assignments can be registered in the [ITU Master International Frequency Register](#) (Master Register) and receive international recognition in accordance with Article 8 of the Radio Regulations. The international rights and obligations of administrations regarding their own and other administrations' frequency assignments are derived from the recording of the assignments in the Master Register, or the conformity of the assignments with a frequency plan.

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1.9 This document consolidates all previous documents published by the Radiocommunications Agency and Ofcom on this subject, including:

- a) RA 301 – Procedures of the United Kingdom Administration in Relation to Satellite Networks²;
- b) Procedures for Authorisation of Satellite Networks – A consultation on procedures for the international notification and coordination of satellite networks³;
- c) Procedures for Authorisation of Satellite Networks – A statement on procedures for the management of filings and international coordination for satellite networks⁴;
- d) Procedures for the Management of Satellite Filings, Ofcom, 29 March 2007;
- e) Procedures for the Management of Satellite Filings – Charges and amendments to procedures. Consultation 8 November 2007⁵;
- f) Procedures for the Management of Satellite Filings – A statement on amendments to the procedures, Ofcom, 30 May 2008⁶;
- g) Statement on the Procedures for the Management of Satellite Filings, 7 May 2010⁷; and,
- h) Procedures for the management of satellite filings – Consultation on proposed changes, Ofcom, 28 April 2015⁸.

1.10 This document also takes into account changes to the Radio Regulations agreed by the 2015 World Radio Conference which are relevant to the management of satellite filings.

1.10 This document consolidates all previous procedures documents published by the Radiocommunications Agency and Ofcom on this subject, including:

- a) [RA 301 – Procedures of the United Kingdom Administration in Relation to Satellite Networks](#);
- b) [Procedures for the Management of Satellite Filings, Ofcom, 29 March 2007](#);
- c) [Procedures for the Management of Satellite Filings, Ofcom, 30 March 2016](#);
- d) [Procedures for the Management of satellite Filings, Ofcom, 14 March 2019](#).

1.11 This document also takes into account changes to the Radio Regulations agreed by the 2019 and 2023 World Radiocommunication Conferences which are relevant to the management of satellite filings.

Current version (14 March 2019)

New version (2 March 2026)

1.11 Any reference in this document to the ITU Radio Regulations and the international legal provisions is provided for information purposes only. All references are correct, as far as Ofcom is aware, at the time of publication of these procedures. Any applicant is recommended to obtain its own advice prior to making an application in accordance with these procedures and undertake such technical investigations as it may deem necessary.

1.12 A glossary of terms used in this document can be found in Annex 1.

1.12 Any reference in this document to the ITU Radio Regulations and the international legal provisions is provided for information purposes only. All references are correct, as far as Ofcom is aware, at the time of publication of these procedures. Applicants are encouraged to obtain their own advice prior to making an application in accordance with these procedures and undertake such technical investigations as they may deem necessary.

1.13 A glossary of terms used in this document is included at Annex 1.

Section 2

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2.1 This introduction to the ITU and the procedures of the Radio Regulations is for information purposes only. It is included to provide an overview of the role of the ITU and a general description of the procedures set out in the Radio Regulations. This introduction also provides the international context for Ofcom's filing procedures, which are set out in section 7 of this document. This general description is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to the Radio Regulations and the procedures for satellite filings, nor does it cover the procedure for terrestrial filings in relation to earth stations.

2.3

a) is responsible for applying the provisions of the Radio Regulations and agreements between administrations of the same Region, see section 2.11;

[Subheading after paragraph 2.5]

The Radio-Frequency Spectrum and the Geostationary Orbit – Scarce Resources

2.1 This introduction to the [ITU](#) and the procedures of the [Radio Regulations](#) is for information purposes only. It is included to provide an overview of the role of the ITU and a general description of the procedures set out in the Radio Regulations. This introduction also provides the international context for Ofcom's filing procedures, which are set out in section 7 of this document. This general description is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to the Radio Regulations and the procedures for satellite filings, nor does it cover the procedure for terrestrial filings in relation to earth stations.

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[Subheading after paragraph 2.5]

The Radio-Frequency Spectrum and Orbits – Scarce Resources

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2.6 The position in outer space, or orbital slot, occupied by a satellite determines the area of the earth that its signals can reach and its orbit will determine whether it remains over the same area as the earth rotates. Certain orbital locations are in short supply. Most communications satellites operate in the geostationary-satellite orbit (GSO) which is at an altitude of 35,800 km in the plane of the equator. The importance of this orbit is that at this altitude, each satellite rotates around the earth's axis every 24 hours and so appears to be stationary above a fixed point on the earth. A satellite network of three geostationary satellites positioned 120° apart can cover most of the surface of the earth, although coverage is limited to regions below around 75 degrees of latitude. The GSO represents a scarce natural resource, as does the radio-frequency spectrum. It is thus essential to have an efficient global mechanism to assign and coordinate frequencies and to assign orbital slots on the GSO.

2.7 Other applications for satellite networks use orbits at lower altitudes than the GSO where the satellites do not appear to be stationary to an observer on earth. Similar procedures for coordination are also provided for these networks.

2.6 The position in outer space occupied by a satellite determines the area of the earth that its signals can reach. In addition, its orbit and its distance from the Earth will determine which area the signals will cover and may also affect the strength of those signals.

2.7 Some communications and broadcast satellites operate in the geostationary-satellite orbit (GSO) which is at an altitude of 35,800 km in the plane of the equator. The importance of this orbit is that at this altitude, each satellite rotates around the earth's axis every 24 hours and so appears to be stationary above a fixed point on the earth. A satellite network of three geostationary satellites positioned 120° apart can cover most of the surface of the earth, although coverage may be limited to regions below around 75 degrees of latitude. The GSO represents a scarce natural resource, as does the radio-frequency spectrum. It is thus essential to have an efficient global mechanism to assign and coordinate frequencies and to assign orbital slots on the GSO.

2.8 Other applications for satellite networks use orbits at lower or higher altitudes than the GSO where the satellites do not appear to be stationary to an observer on earth. Similar procedures for coordination are also provided for these networks.

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2.8 The international nature of satellite services dictates that they must be managed internationally by the ITU. The role of the ITU Member States in relation to the regulation of the radio-frequency spectrum and orbital positions, such as positions in the GSO, is set out in Article 44 Para 2 (CS 196) of the Constitution of the ITU and re-iterated in No. 0.3 of the Radio Regulations. The latter states that:

“In using frequency bands for radio services, Members shall bear in mind that radio frequencies and the geostationary-satellite orbit are limited natural resources and that they must be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provisions of these Regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to both, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries”.

2.9

d) Other services include science services, such as the Earth Exploration Satellite Service.

[unnumbered paragraph after paragraph 2.9]

While MSS, FSS and BSS have particular regulatory meanings and are used for the allocation of spectrum, it should be noted that in practice there is some blurring and convergence in the applications for which they are used.

2.9 The international nature of satellite services dictates that the spectrum they use must be managed internationally by the ITU. The role of the ITU Member States in relation to the regulation of the radio-frequency spectrum and orbital positions, such as positions in the GSO, is set out in Article 44 Para 2 (CS 196) of the Constitution of the ITU and re-iterated in No. 0.3 of the Radio Regulations. The latter states that:

“In using frequency bands for radio services, Members shall bear in mind that radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary-satellite orbit, are limited natural resources and that they must be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to both, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries”.

2.10

d) Other services include the Amateur Satellite Service, the Radio Navigation Satellite Services (like GPS) and science services, such as the Earth Exploration Satellite Service.

2.11 While MSS, FSS and BSS have particular regulatory meanings and are used for the allocation of spectrum, it should be noted that in practice there is some blurring and convergence in the applications for which they are used.

2.12 A more complete list of satellite services and definitions can be found in Article 1 of the ITU Radio Regulations.

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2.11 Section IV of Article 5 of the Radio Regulations provides the Table of Frequency Allocations (Table). This Table sets out, frequency band by frequency band, which radiocommunication services have allocations in each of the three ITU Regions. The Regions are broadly defined in No. 5.2 as: Region 1, Europe/Africa; Region 2, Americas; and Region 3, Asia/Oceania. The UK falls within Region 1. Each ITU Member State is free to deviate from this Table, but only to the extent that harmful interference is not caused to any other ITU Member State that is using the spectrum in accordance with Article 5 of the Radio Regulations. No. 4.2 of the Radio Regulations states:

“Member States undertake that in assigning frequencies to stations which are capable of causing harmful interference to the services rendered by the stations of another country, such assignments are to be made in accordance with the Table of Frequency Allocations and other provisions of these Regulations.”

No. 4.4 continues by stating that:

“Administrations of the Member States shall not assign to a station any frequency in derogation of either the Table of Frequency Allocations in this Chapter or the other provisions of these Regulations, except on the express condition that such a station, when using such a frequency assignment, shall not cause harmful interference to, and shall not claim protection from harmful interference caused by, a station operating in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the Convention and these Regulations.”

2.14 Section IV of Article 5 of the Radio Regulations provides the Table of Frequency Allocations (Table). This Table sets out, frequency band by frequency band, which radiocommunication services have allocations in each of the three ITU Regions. The Regions are broadly defined in No. 5.2 as: Region 1, Europe/Africa; Region 2, Americas; and Region 3, Asia/Oceania. The UK falls within Region 1.

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2.15 The ITU Radio Regulations define those uses for specific frequency bands that will have international recognition in each of the three Regions. Within each frequency band, radiocommunication services are allocated on the basis of 'primary' and 'secondary' services, either on a worldwide or regional basis. By definition, stations of a secondary service will neither cause harmful interference to, nor claim protection from harmful interference caused by existing or future stations of the primary service (see No. 5.30 of the Radio Regulations). In many instances, bands of frequencies are allocated to more than one service on a co-primary basis. In such cases, specific sharing conditions are imposed on each service, e.g. limitations on equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.), minimum elevation angles for earth stations and maximum levels of interference.

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[New subheading to be inserted after paragraph 2.12]

Operations under No. 4.4 of the Radio Regulations

2.16 In general, we expect applicants to apply for frequency assignments which fall within the Table. However, we understand that there may be some cases where this is not possible.

2.17 An ITU Member State may deviate from the Table, but only to the extent that harmful interference is not caused to any other ITU Member State that is using the spectrum in accordance with Article 5 of the Radio Regulations. No. 4.2 of the Radio Regulations states:

“Member States undertake that in assigning frequencies to stations which are capable of causing harmful interference to the services rendered by the stations of another country, such assignments are to be made in accordance with the Table of Frequency Allocations and other provisions of these Regulations.”

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“Administrations of the Member States shall not assign to a station any frequency in derogation of either the Table of Frequency Allocations in this Chapter or the other provisions of these Regulations, except on the express condition that such a station, when using such a frequency assignment, shall not cause harmful interference to, and shall not claim protection from harmful interference caused by, a station operating in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the Convention and these Regulations.”

2.18 Further information on how we evaluate applications under No. 4.4 is provided in Section 6.

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2.14 The specific procedures setting out the rights and obligations of each administration in relation to orbit and spectrum management and providing the means to achieve radiocommunication in a controlled interference environment have been laid down by successive ITU World Radio Conferences (WRCs) based on two main principles: efficient use and equitable access. Two mechanisms for the sharing of orbit and spectrum resources have been developed and implemented:

- a) a priori planning procedures which guarantee equitable access to orbit/spectrum resources for future use; and,
- b) coordination procedures.

[unnumbered paragraph after paragraph 2.14]

- ii) other non-GSO networks for which only the advance publication procedure is necessary (see section 2.20(b) below).

2.18 As mentioned in section 2.16, for services in non-planned bands the use of the resource is implemented through a first-come-first-served procedure based on the principle that rights are acquired through negotiations with other administrations (i.e. coordination agreements). Successful coordination will lead to the international recognition of the use of the assignments of the networks and the recording of their assignments in the Master Register.

[Footnote 9 on Advance Publication Information subheading after paragraph 2.19]

From 1 July 2016, it will not be possible anymore to submit the advanced publication information (API) for those satellite networks subject to the coordination procedure described in Section II of Article 9. Those applicants wishing to submit an API prior to 1 July 2016 are invited to contact Ofcom for further guidance.

2.22 The specific procedures setting out the rights and obligations of each administration in relation to orbit and spectrum management and providing the means to achieve radiocommunication in a controlled interference environment have been laid down by successive ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) based on two main principles: efficient use and equitable access. Two mechanisms for the sharing of orbit and spectrum resources have been developed and implemented:

- a) a priori planning procedures which are designed to provide equitable access to orbit/spectrum resources for future use; and,
- b) coordination procedures.

2.23

- ii) other non-GSO networks for which only the advance publication procedure is necessary (see paragraph 2.28(a) below).

2.27 As mentioned in paragraph 2.25, for services in non-planned bands the use of the resource is implemented through a first-come-first-served procedure based on the principle that rights are acquired through negotiations with other administrations (i.e. coordination agreements). Successful coordination will lead to the international recognition of the use of the assignments of the networks and the recording of their assignments in the Master Register.

[Footnote removed]

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2.20 Section II of Article 9 of the Radio Regulations describes the procedure for effecting coordination applicable to a satellite network. For those satellite networks not subject to such a procedure, the first stage of the regulatory process is the submission by a national administration to the ITU-BR of a general description of the network for advance publication in the International Frequency Information Circular (BR IFIC). This stage is called the Advance Publication Information (API).

2.29 Section II of Article 9 of the Radio Regulations describes the procedure for effecting coordination applicable to a satellite network. For those satellite networks not subject to such a procedure, the first stage of the regulatory process is the submission by a national administration to the ITU-BR of a general description of the network for advance publication in the [BR International Frequency Information Circular](#) (BR IFIC). This stage is called the Advance Publication Information (API).

[New subheading to be inserted after paragraph 2.32]

Masks for EPFD examination

2.43 Article 22 of the Radio Regulations contains equivalent power flux-density (EPFD) limits applicable to non-GSO systems in certain bands to ensure the protection of GSO networks in the same bands without the need for individual coordination.

2.44 Non-GSO systems to which this applies are required to supply additional information describing the operation of their system, so that the ITU-BR can determine their compliance with the relevant limits in Article 22.

2.45 This additional information, specified in Appendix 4 of the Radio Regulations, is provided in the form of power-flux density (pfd) masks and/or effective isotropic radiated power (eirp) masks. [Recommendation ITU-R S.1503](#) provides guidelines for their generation and application.

2.46 It is the responsibility of the applicant to prepare these masks and supply them along with the required information set out in Table 1 – Due Diligence Requirements (see Section 5).

2.47 Operations of non-GSO satellite systems are expected to be carried out within the envelope set out by the filing and by the masks supplied. Ofcom will carry out analysis to check consistency between the filing data and the supplied masks and, in cases where our analysis indicates a potential for exceedance of the masks, applicants will be required to supply a letter of commitment to Ofcom indicating that they shall not operate outside of the limits specified by the mask.

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2.33 The notification of a frequency assignment to the ITU-BR in accordance with Article 11 of the Radio Regulations is the final regulatory step leading to the recording of the frequency assignment in the Master Register. The provisions relating to notification of frequency assignments are primarily stipulated in Article 11 of the Radio Regulations, except for certain services which affect or which are related to the planned assignments. The importance of a recording in the Master Register is mentioned in section 2.13 above.

2.35 Under No. 11.44.1, complete notification information, constituting a “receivable notice” in accordance with the ITU Rules of Procedure, must be received by the ITU-BR before the end of seven years from the date of receipt of API under No. 9.1 or from the date of receipt of the information sent under No. 9.30, as applicable. For assignments which do not require coordination under Section II of Article 9, the notification procedure for space stations can generally be initiated upon the completion of the API procedure. For assignments which do require coordination under Section II of Article 9, the notification procedure for space stations can be initiated upon the completion of the coordination procedure.

2.39 An important feature of this procedure is that the Master Register provides, as well as the basic characteristics of the assignment, an indication of each assignment's status with respect to the other assignments, reflecting the findings issued at the time when it was recorded in the Master Register. The contents of the Master Register are published periodically in DVD format. In the interval between issues administrations are kept informed of new assignments notified to the ITU-BR and of the findings formulated in this respect by way of the BR IFIC.

[Cross reference updated – from section 2.13 to section 2.19]

2.48 The notification of a frequency assignment to the ITU-BR in accordance with Article 11 of the Radio Regulations is the final regulatory step leading to the recording of the frequency assignment in the Master Register. The provisions relating to notification of frequency assignments are primarily stipulated in Article 11 of the Radio Regulations, except for certain services which affect or which are related to the planned assignments. The importance of a recording in the Master Register is mentioned in paragraph 2.19 above.

2.50 Under No. 11.44.1, complete notification information, constituting a “receivable notice” in accordance with the ITU Rules of Procedure, must be received by the ITU-BR before the end of seven years from the date of receipt of API under No. 9.1 or from the date of receipt of the information sent under No. 9.30, as applicable. For assignments which do not require coordination under Section II of Article 9, the notification procedure for space stations can generally be initiated upon the completion of the API procedure and once a spacecraft has been launched. For assignments which do require coordination under Section II of Article 9, the notification procedure for space stations can be initiated upon the completion of the coordination procedure.

2.54 An important feature of this procedure is that the Master Register provides, as well as the basic characteristics of the assignment, an indication of each assignment's status with respect to the other assignments, reflecting the findings issued at the time when it was recorded in the Master Register. In the interval between issues administrations are kept informed of new assignments notified to the ITU-BR and of the findings formulated in this respect by way of the BR IFIC.

[New subheading to be inserted after paragraph 2.39]

Non-GSO deployment milestones

2.55 To ensure non-GSO systems are deployed in a timely manner, WRC-19 introduced a milestones process, which applies after the 7-year notification period. The non-GSO deployment milestones process is set out in Resolution 35 of the Radio Regulations. Resolution 35 also sets out the types of non-GSO systems and the frequencies which are required to comply.

2.56 Where a non-GSO system has been brought into use in the frequency bands and services listed in Resolution 35 of the Radio Regulations, deployment information must be submitted to the ITU-BR by the notifying administration no later than the deadlines specified in the table below.

[new table]

Milestone Number: M0

Percentage of constellation to be deployed: 1 satellite

Deadline for information to be supplied to ITU-BR: 7-year limit + 30 days

Milestone Number: M1

Percentage of constellation to be deployed: 10%

Deadline for information to be supplied to ITU-BR: 7-year limit + 2 years + 30 days

Milestone Number: M2

Percentage of constellation to be deployed: 50%

Deadline for information to be supplied to ITU-BR: 7-year limit + 5 years + 30 days

Milestone Number: M3

Percentage of constellation to be deployed: 100%

Deadline for information to be supplied to ITU-BR: 7-year limit + 7 years + 30 days

2.57 Deployment information is to be prepared by the operator and submitted to Ofcom for review prior to being submitted to the ITU-BR. The specific timeframes for

supplying this information to Ofcom can be found in Section 5.

2.58 Notifying administrations shall also submit to ITU-BR, no later than 90 days after the expiry of each of the milestone periods, the modifications to the characteristics of the notified or recorded frequency assignments if the number of space stations declared as deployed:

a) For M1 - If less than 10% of the total number of satellites (rounded down to the lower integer) indicated in the latest notification information published in Part I S of the BR IFIC for the frequency assignments; in this case, the modified total number of satellites shall not be greater than 10 times the number of space stations declared as deployed.

b) For M2 - If less than 50% of the total number of satellites (rounded down to the lower integer) indicated in the latest notification information published in Part I S of the BR IFIC for the frequency assignments; in this case, the modified total number of satellites shall not be greater than two times the number of space stations declared as deployed.

c) For M3 - If less than 100% of the total number of satellites indicated in the latest notification information published in Part I S of the BR IFIC for the frequency assignments; in this case, the modified total number of satellites shall not be greater than the number of space stations declared as deployed.

2.59 Any required modifications are to be prepared by the operator and submitted to Ofcom for review prior to being submitted to the ITU-BR

[New subheading to be inserted after paragraph 2.39]

Non-GSO orbital tolerances

2.60 Specific orbital tolerances apply to non-GSO systems having an orbital eccentricity less than 0.5 and an apogee altitude less than 15,000 km notified as part of a non-GSO FSS, BSS or MSS system subject to non-GSO Milestones (See Resolutions 35 and 8 of the Radio Regulations)².

2.61 The following tolerances are permitted for deviations between the notified and observed orbital characteristics of non-GSO systems:

With explanation of differences (Resolves 6)

Apogee and Perigee Altitudes:

For altitudes $\leq 2,000$ km: ± 70 km.

For altitudes $> 2,000$ km: $\pm 5\%$ of the notified altitude.

Inclination Angle:

For altitudes $\leq 2,000$ km: $\pm 2^\circ$.

For altitudes $> 2,000$ km: $\pm 3^\circ$.

With explanation of differences and technical demonstration of no higher interference (Resolves 7)

Apogee and Perigee Altitudes:

For altitudes $\leq 2,000$ km: ± 70 to 100 km.

For altitudes $> 2,000$ km: ± 5 to 10% of the notified altitude.

Inclination Angle:

For altitudes $\leq 2,000$ km: between 2 to 3°.

For altitudes $> 2,000$ km: between 3 to 4°.

2.62 Administrations must provide deployment information to the ITU-BR regarding the observed orbital characteristics of their satellites. This information should include the observed distances to the apogee and perigee along with the observed inclination angles, as set out in Annex 1 of Resolution 8. It is the operator's responsibility to compile the information required under Annex 1 and submit this to Ofcom.

2.63 Where a satellite has been used for the purpose of bringing into use or bringing back into use or counted towards the non-GSO deployment milestone:

a) the maximum allowed difference between the observed distance to the apogee or perigee of the space station and the distances to the apogee or perigee of a space station previously declared under this Resolution is 30 km;

b) the maximum allowed difference between the observed angle of inclination of the orbital plane of the space station and the angle of inclination of the orbital plane of a space station previously declared under this Resolution is 2° (for a notified altitude of the apogee/notified altitude of the perigee of 2 000 km or less), or 3° (for a notified altitude of the apogee/notified altitude of the perigee greater than 2 000 km).

[Footnote 2 - For In-orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing (ISAM) and other novel missions, we encourage operators to engage with us early to discuss their missions, so we can discuss the regulations that might apply to their specific circumstances.]

[New subheading to be inserted after paragraph 2.39]

Non-GSO post-milestone reporting

2.64 Where a non-GSO system has completed the milestone process described above, notifying administrations shall communicate to ITU-BR the required deployment information (See Annex 1, Resolution 35 of the Radio Regulations). This is required no later than 30 days after the expiry of the 11-year period after the end of the seven-year regulatory period.

2.65 Thereafter, notifying administrations must provide the deployment information every four years thereafter to the ITU-BR. This information must be provided to the ITU-BR no later than 30 days after the expiry of a four-year period.

2.66 If the number of satellites considered as part of the system falls below the total number of satellites published in the BR IFIC¹¹ then the notifying administration shall:

- a) provide a report to the ITU-BR, containing the date when this event, or events, began, and a general explanation of the event(s) for each affected satellite. This report should be submitted each year within 30 days of the date on which the milestones process was completed;
- b) provide to the ITU-BR the date or dates on which each affected satellite was restored to operational status or replaced. This should either be submitted as part of the annual report under resolves 22a, or with the next report under resolves 19 or 20, whichever comes first.

2.67 These reports are for information purposes only.

[Footnote 3 - The total number of satellites may either be listed in the Master Register in Part II S of the BR IFIC or in the latest notification information published in BR IFIC (Part I S) for the frequency assignments]

Current version

New version

2.40 For planned bands, the ITU procedures are different, as explained below. As briefly mentioned in section 2.17, planned bands are those subject to a priori planning procedures. This a priori planning seeks to guarantee equitable access to orbit/spectrum resources for future use, as referred to in Article 44 Para 2 (CS 196) of the Constitution of the ITU and No. 0.3 of the Radio Regulations. No coordination is required for assignments contained in the plans.

2.48

c) due diligence information (ITU-R Resolution 49, see section 2.50), where applicable, being submitted within the defined regulatory time limit.

2.52 The due diligence information required is set out in Annex 2 of Resolution 49 and includes specific details of the satellite network operator and details of the API and coordination request publications. The information must also include details of contractual undertakings related to the construction and launch of the relevant satellites. The information should be provided to the ITU-BR as early as possible before bringing into use of the frequency assignment, but in any case it must be submitted before the end of the seven year period established as a limit to bringing into use a satellite network for non-planned bands.

2.68 For planned bands, the ITU procedures are different, as explained below. As briefly mentioned in paragraph 2.26, planned bands are those subject to a priori planning procedures. This a priori planning seeks to guarantee equitable access to orbit/spectrum resources for future use, as referred to in Article 44 Para 2 (CS 196) of the Constitution of the ITU and No. 0.3 of the Radio Regulations. No coordination is required for assignments contained in the plans.

2.78

c) due diligence information (ITU-R Resolution 49, see paragraph 2.79), where applicable, being submitted within the defined regulatory time limit.

2.82 The due diligence information required is set out in Annex 2 of Resolution 49 and includes specific details of the satellite network operator and details of the API and coordination request publications. The information must also include details of contractual undertakings related to the construction and launch of the relevant satellites. The information should be provided to the ITU-BR as early as possible before bringing into use of the frequency assignment, but in any case it must be submitted before the end of the seven year period established as a limit to bringing into use a satellite network for non-planned bands. We set out our due diligence process in section 5.

Current version

New version

2.55 In cases where a notifying administration informs the Bureau, pursuant to section 2.54 above, that it has brought into use, or resumed the use after suspension of, a frequency assignment to a space station in a geostationary satellite network with a satellite that has previously been used to bring into use, or resume the use of, frequency assignments at a different orbital location within three years prior to the date of submission of this information, the notifying administration is also required by the Radio Regulations to indicate, for that same three-year period, some pre-determined details about the operational history of that satellite¹³.

[Footnote 13 - The provision of the information described in sections 2.54 and 2.55 derives from the relevant decisions made at WRC-15. It should be noted that, when notifying the Bureau of the bringing into use, or resuming the use after suspension of frequency assignments, Ofcom may ask for more information than that prescribed by the ITU.]

2.85 In cases where a notifying administration informs the Bureau, pursuant to paragraph 2.84 above, that it has brought into use, or resumed the use after suspension of, a frequency assignment to a space station in a geostationary satellite network with a satellite that has previously been used to bring into use, or resume the use of, frequency assignments at a different orbital location within three years prior to the date of submission of this information, the notifying administration is also required by the Radio Regulations to indicate, for that same three-year period, some pre-determined details about the operational history of that satellite¹⁴.

[Footnote 6 - The provision of the information described in paragraphs 2.84 and 2.85 derives from the relevant decisions made at WRC-15. It should be noted that, when notifying the Bureau of the bringing into use, or resuming the use after suspension of frequency assignments, Ofcom may ask for more information than that prescribed by the ITU under Resolution 40 of the Radio Regulations.]

Current version

New version

[New paragraphs to be inserted after paragraph 2.55]

2.86 Under a decision made in the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12)⁷, it was recognised that an administration can bring into use, or continue the use of, frequency assignments for one of its satellite networks by using a space station which is under the responsibility of another administration or intergovernmental organization. This is provided that this latter administration or intergovernmental organization, after having been informed, does not object, within 90 days from the date of receipt of information, to the use of this space station for such purposes.

2.87 In the case where we become aware of a request from another administration to use a UK-licensed satellite to bring into use or continue the use of a frequency assignment, we would discuss this request with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)⁸ and other relevant Government departments as appropriate. If we identify any issues with the request, we would inform the relevant notifying administration within 90 days of receiving their request.

2.88 Similarly, in the case of a request for the use of a foreign satellite to bring into use or continue the use of frequency assignments associated with a UK filing, we will inform the satellite's responsible administration and allow 90 days for it to flag any issues before proceeding with the bringing into use notification.

[Footnote 7 - See Minutes of the 13th Plenary Meeting, WRC-12]

[Footnote 8 - The CAA is the UK's satellite licensing authority and is responsible for satellite licensing and all matters relating to the safe operation of UK satellites in space, including authorising the drift of a satellite.]

[Subheading after paragraph 2.55]

World Radio Conferences

[Subheading after paragraph 2.88]

World Radiocommunication Conferences

Current version

New version

2.59 The UK's obligations under the various United Nations space treaties and principles are implemented through the UK Outer Space Act 1986. The licensing mechanism set out in the Outer Space Act 1986 is administered in the UK by the UK Space Agency. Applicants who require a licence under the Outer Space Act 1986 should contact the UK Space Agency.

2.92 The UK's obligations under the various United Nations space treaties and principles are implemented through the UK Outer Space Act 1986, Space Industry Act 2018 and associated regulations. The licensing and regulatory mechanisms set out in this legislation are administered in the UK by the independent regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority. Applicants who may require a licence under the Outer Space Act 1986 or Space Industry Act 2018 should contact the Civil Aviation Authority.

Section 3

Current version

3.3(b) Section 22 of the 2003 Act imposes a duty on Ofcom to do such things as it is required to do by the Secretary of State to represent the UK on international and other bodies in relation to communications matters. The Secretary of State has required Ofcom to carry out various international representation functions in relation to radio spectrum, including making satellite filings. Section 22 of the 2003 Act also provides Ofcom with the power to represent the British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man if requested to do so by the Secretary of State. However, the Secretary of State is not entitled to direct Ofcom to comply with such a request and cannot compel Ofcom to take on that role, but can give directions about how Ofcom is to carry out any representative role that it undertakes in accordance with such a request. Following a formal request from the DTI to Ofcom to represent the British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, Ofcom agreed to take on this in 2005.

New version

3.3(b) Section 22 of the 2003 Act imposes a duty on Ofcom to do such things as it is required to do by the Secretary of State to represent the UK on international and other bodies in relation to communications matters. The Secretary of State has required Ofcom to carry out various international representation functions in relation to radio spectrum, including making satellite filings. Section 22 of the 2003 Act also provides Ofcom with the power to represent the British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man if requested to do so by the Secretary of State. However, the Secretary of State is not entitled to direct Ofcom to comply with such a request and cannot compel Ofcom to take on that role, but can give directions about how Ofcom is to carry out any representative role that it undertakes in accordance with such a request. Following a formal request from the DTI¹² to Ofcom to represent the British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, Ofcom agreed to take on this role in 2005.

[Footnote 12 - The Department of Trade and Industry, which was the sponsoring department for spectrum management at this time. This responsibility now sits with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).]

Current version

New version

[New paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 3.3]

3.4 In carrying out this role, we discuss issues with relevant UK Government departments and agencies as needed. We may also share relevant satellite filing information with these departments and agencies on a confidential basis. We may do this at any stage of the satellite filings process and throughout the lifetime of the filing in relation to any decision which may affect the national security or interests of the UK, as determined by the UK Government. In line with section 22 of the 2003 Act, the Secretary of State may require Ofcom to act in accordance with any guidance it provides.

3.7 Ofcom is required to decide whether to process an application for a satellite network filing based on the criteria set out in sections 4.5 to 4.8 of this document.

3.7 Ofcom is required to decide whether to process an application for a satellite network filing based on the criteria set out in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.8 of this document.

3.7 In the case of applications submitted on behalf of companies located in British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, Ofcom will consult with the relevant governments of these territories. Additionally, applications that may impact frequency assignments (either planned or non-planned) to these territories will be considered in consultation with the governments of these territories.

3.8 In the case of applications submitted on behalf of companies that are registered, or have their headquarters, in the British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, Ofcom will consult with the relevant governments of these territories. Additionally, applications that may impact frequency assignments (either planned or non-planned) to these territories will be considered in consultation with the governments of these territories.

Section 4

Current version

New version

4.1 Applications and all related correspondence relating to satellite networks in planned and non-planned bands must be submitted by the applicant to Ofcom in electronic format, where possible, and in accordance with the format required by the ITU Space Services software (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/software/space/index.html>) to the following address:

Email: ifc.enquiries@ofcom.org.uk

International Satellite Frequency Coordination Team

Spectrum Group

Ofcom

Riverside House

2A Southwark Bridge Road

London SE1 9HA

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7981 3100

Fax: +44 (0)20 7981 3208

4.1 Applications and all related correspondence relating to satellite networks in planned and non-planned bands must be submitted by the applicant to Ofcom in electronic format, where possible, and in accordance with the format required by the [ITU Space Services software](#) to the following address:

Email: ifc.enquiries@ofcom.org.uk

International Satellite Frequency Coordination Team

Spectrum Group

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Riverside House

2A Southwark Bridge Road

London SE1 9HA

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7981 3100

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4.5 Applicants must establish, to the satisfaction of Ofcom, that their satellite project can be realised within the relevant regulatory time limits and the relevant technical and operational parameters. In particular, Ofcom needs to be satisfied with the content of the management and technical due diligence deliverables provided by the applicant, as defined for each stage in section 5 of this document. Ofcom will also need to be satisfied that the application is consistent with the ITU and UK tables of frequency allocations.

4.5 Applicants must establish, to the satisfaction of Ofcom, that their satellite project can be realised within the relevant regulatory time limits and the relevant technical and operational parameters¹³. In particular, Ofcom needs to be satisfied with the content of the management and technical due diligence deliverables provided by the applicant, as defined for each stage in section 5 of this document. Ofcom will also need to be satisfied that the application is consistent with the ITU and UK tables of frequency allocations.

[Footnote 13 - For applications that seek to utilise small satellites, we recommend that applicants first review advice from the ITU on [Small Satellites](#). In addition, applicants for amateur satellite service frequency allocations may also wish to review information from the [International Amateur Radio Union \(IARU\) - Satellites](#).]

[New subheading to be inserted after paragraph 4.8]

Applications for UK2.1 frequencies

4.9 Where an applicant makes a submission that contains frequencies that are identified as UK2.1 within the UK Frequency Allocation Table, Ofcom will consult with the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) prior to the submission being made to the ITU-BR. Consultation with the MOD will occur prior to the initial submission and again prior to the notification of a satellite filing being made to the ITU-BR. If MOD raises objections to the filing, this may result in Ofcom not submitting the information to the ITU.

4.10 Where an applicant requests the submission of notification information to the ITU-BR the MOD may request the applicant to enter into a contract with them, setting out conditions for holding a filing for UK2.1 spectrum. In instances where a contract is in place, failure to comply with this contract may lead to the filing being cancelled.

4.11 We encourage all satellite operators seeking to use UK2.1 frequencies to engage with us early so that any additional checks – and any discussions with MOD – do not cause delays to project timelines.

[New subheading to be inserted after paragraph 4.8]

Space Sustainability

4.12 Satellites licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) must meet [requirements](#) related to space sustainability, including providing space debris mitigation and end of life plans. The CAA also requires licensees to operate in line with good practices, including (at a minimum) the [IADC Space Debris Mitigation guidelines](#).

4.13 The Procedures set out in this document do not include specific requirements related to space debris or environmental issues. However, as a matter of best practice, Ofcom encourages all applicants, including those not licensed by the CAA, to adhere to relevant guidelines on space sustainability, including the IADC Space Debris Mitigation guidelines.

Section 5

Current version	New version
<p>5.6 When applicants have completed a milestone in Table 1 or 2 they must inform Ofcom of this as soon as practicable.</p>	<p>5.6 When applicants have completed a deliverable in Table 1 or 2 they must inform Ofcom of this as soon as practicable.</p>
<p>[Table 1 – Due diligence requirements]</p>	<p>[All instances of ‘milestones’ or ‘milestone’ in this table have been replaced with ‘deliverables’]</p>
<p>[Table 1 – Due diligence requirements]</p>	<p>[New point 5 inserted under Stage 1, in the second column]</p> <p>5. PFD/EIRP masks – non-GSO systems containing frequencies subject to Article 22 of the Radio Regulations</p>
<p>[Table 1 – Due diligence requirements]</p>	<p>[Additional wording inserted under Stage 3, in the second column, at the end of point 4 (before subpoint 4(a))]</p> <p>See Resolution 40 of the Radio Regulations</p>

[Table 1 – Due diligence requirements]

[New rows to be inserted at the end of the table to describe new stages 5-9 for non-GSO systems]

Stage 5

Deliverables:

1. Resolution 35 – non-GSO Milestone 0 Information
2. Resolution 8 – non-GSO Phase 1

Complete not later than:

2 months before the end of the 7-year regulatory period

Stage 6

Deliverables:

1. Resolution 35 – non-GSO Milestone 1 Information
2. Resolution 8 – non-GSO Phase 2

Complete not later than:

22 months after the 7-year regulatory period

Stage 7

Deliverables:

1. Resolution 35 – non-GSO Milestone 2 Information
2. Resolution 8 – non-GSO Phase 2

Complete not later than:

58 months after the 7-year regulatory period

Stage 8

Deliverables:

1. Resolution 35 – non-GSO Milestone 3 Information
2. Resolution 8 – non-GSO Phase 2

Complete not later than:

82 months after the 7-year regulatory period

Stage 9

Deliverables:

Resolution 35 – Post-milestone Information

Complete not later than:

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New version

	The end of each four year period after completion of non-GSO milestone reporting (stage 8)
<p>5.8 We would normally expect evidence of milestone completion to be available well ahead of the deadline. If the milestone has not been met by the deadline, Ofcom may consider whether it would be appropriate to cancel the filing. The applicant may ask Ofcom to extend the deadline for a particular milestone, explaining the exceptional circumstances justifying the request. Ofcom may decide to extend such a deadline. If the applicant has not met the relevant milestone by this extended deadline then Ofcom may consider whether it would be appropriate to cancel the filing.</p>	<p>5.8 We would normally expect evidence of completion of deliverables to be available well ahead of the deadline. If the deliverable has not been completed by the deadline, Ofcom may consider whether it would be appropriate to cancel the filing. The applicant may ask Ofcom to extend the deadline for a particular deliverable, explaining the exceptional circumstances justifying the request. Ofcom may decide to extend such a deadline. If the applicant has not completed the relevant deliverable by this extended deadline then Ofcom may consider whether it would be appropriate to cancel the filing.</p>
<p>5.9 The applicant must inform Ofcom, as soon as possible, of any change to the business plan which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) has an impact on the ability to meet the milestones (described in Table 1) as originally communicated; or,b) necessitates any modification to the technical parameters of the filing.	<p>5.9 The applicant must inform Ofcom, as soon as possible, of any change to the business plan which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) has an impact on the ability to meet the deliverables (described in Table 1) as originally communicated; or,b) necessitates any modification to the technical parameters of the filing.
<p>5.10 If the change to the business plan is such that the project is not likely to meet Ofcom’s milestones as described in Table 1 or that the project cannot be completed within the relevant regulatory period(s) of the filing or that the technical parameters of the filing need to be changed, Ofcom may consider what appropriate actions should be taken. These may include cancelling the filing.</p>	<p>5.10 If the change to the business plan is such that the project is not likely to meet Ofcom’s timelines as described in Table 1 or that the project cannot be completed within the relevant regulatory period(s) of the filing or that the technical parameters of the filing need to be changed, Ofcom may consider what appropriate actions should be taken. These may include cancelling the filing.</p>
<p>[Subheading after Paragraph 5.10] Milestone requirements and progress monitoring</p>	<p>[Subheading after Paragraph 5.10] Due diligence requirements and progress monitoring</p>

Current version

New version

5.11 Applicants will provide to Ofcom yearly progress reports for each satellite network indicating any variations from the previously submitted business plan and also details of their coordination progress and status. Such reports should contain, at a minimum:

- a) project activities undertaken, or completed, for each of the individual milestones;
- b) frequency coordination activities undertaken, or completed, in the previous months; and,
- c) information about any changes or updates to the latest version of the business plan submitted to Ofcom.

5.13 Ofcom will assess the information provided in the reports against the original business plan and its milestones to establish whether sufficient progress is being made to ensure that the project will be completed within the satellite network's regulatory deadline, as specified in section 5.3.

5.14 In the event that a progress report indicates that, unless modified, the project is not likely to meet Ofcom's milestones as described in Table 1 or that the project will no longer be completed within the satellite network's regulatory deadline, Ofcom may consider what appropriate actions should be taken. These may include cancelling the filing.

5.11 Applicants will provide to Ofcom yearly progress reports for each satellite network indicating any variations from the previously submitted business plan and also details of their coordination progress and status. Such reports should contain, at a minimum:

- a) project activities undertaken, or completed, for each of the individual deliverables;
- b) frequency coordination activities undertaken, or completed, in the previous months; and,
- c) information about any changes or updates to the latest version of the business plan submitted to Ofcom.

5.13 Ofcom will assess the information provided in the reports against the original business plan and its milestones to establish whether sufficient progress is being made to ensure that the project will be completed within the satellite network's regulatory deadline, as specified in paragraph 5.3.

5.14 In the event that a progress report indicates that, unless modified, the project is not likely to meet Ofcom's timelines as described in Table 1 or that the project will no longer be completed within the satellite network's regulatory deadline, Ofcom may consider what appropriate actions should be taken. These may include cancelling the filing.

Section 6

Current version

New version

6.1 All applications will be considered against the criteria contained in this document before submission of the relevant filing information to the ITU-BR. Ofcom's process is illustrated in the flowcharts in Annex 3.

6.1 All applications will be considered against the criteria contained in this document before submission of the relevant filing information to the ITU-BR. A high-level overview of Ofcom's process is illustrated in the flowcharts in Annex 3.

6.2 As set out in Section 3, we discuss issues related to satellite filings with relevant UK Government departments and agencies as needed. We may also share relevant satellite filing information with these departments and agencies on a confidential basis. We may do this at any stage of the satellite filings process and throughout the lifetime of the filing in relation to any decision which may affect the national security or interests of the UK, as determined by the UK Government.

6.4 Except where section 6.5 below applies, for those frequency assignments which are subject to Section II of Article 9, Ofcom will not submit notification data for the subject satellite network to the ITU-BR unless the operator presents evidence that coordination has been completed with affected non-UK networks with higher regulatory precedence. In such cases, the applicant must submit copies of the completed coordination agreements to Ofcom.

6.5 Except where paragraph 6.6 below applies, for those frequency assignments which are subject to Section II of Article 9, Ofcom will not submit notification data for the subject satellite network to the ITU-BR unless the operator presents evidence that coordination has been completed with affected non-UK networks with higher regulatory precedence. In such cases, the applicant must submit copies of the completed coordination agreements to Ofcom.

6.9 Except where section 6.10 below applies, for those frequency assignments which are subject to Section II of Article 9, Ofcom will not submit notification data for the subject satellite network to the ITU-BR unless the operator presents evidence that coordination has been completed with affected UK networks with higher regulatory precedence, including those of a British Overseas Territory, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. In such cases, the applicant will submit copies of the completed coordination agreements to Ofcom.

6.10 Except where paragraph 6.11 below applies, for those frequency assignments which are subject to Section II of Article 9, Ofcom will not submit notification data for the subject satellite network to the ITU-BR unless the operator presents evidence that coordination has been completed with affected UK networks with higher regulatory precedence, including those of a British Overseas Territory, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. In such cases, the applicant will submit copies of the completed coordination agreements to Ofcom.

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6.14 If the subject application is brought into use without coordination being completed (see sections 6.5 and 6.10 above) with existing frequency assignments or filings, and any of such existing assignment or filing has been or is subsequently brought into use within its regulatory period and suffers harmful interference from the subject network, then the subject network must mitigate that interference. Failure to do so may lead to Ofcom exercising its powers set out in section 12 of this document.

6.17 If a proposed satellite filing is not technically compatible with the proposed or existing usage of an unmodified or modified UK assignment or modification/additional use contained in a frequency assignment plan (e.g. the BSS Plan for Regions 1 and 3 contained in Appendix 30 of the Radio Regulations), i.e. an unmodified planned UK assignment has been made available to an operator or an operator has already applied to modify such a planned UK assignment, the applicant will be required to obtain the agreement of the operator of the affected assignment before Ofcom can submit the new filing to the ITU.

6.15 If the subject application is brought into use without coordination being completed (see paragraphs 6.6 and 6.11 above) with existing frequency assignments or filings, and any of such existing assignment or filing has been or is subsequently brought into use within its regulatory period and suffers harmful interference from the subject network, then the subject network must mitigate that interference. Failure to do so may lead to Ofcom exercising its powers set out in section 12 of this document.

6.18 If a proposed satellite filing is not technically compatible with the proposed or existing usage of a UK assignment²⁸, the applicant will be required to obtain the agreement of the operator of the affected assignment before Ofcom can submit the new filing to the ITU.

[Footnote 28 - This also applies to modified UK assignments and/or additional use contained in a frequency assignment plan (e.g. the BSS Plan for Regions 1 and 3 contained in Appendix 30 of the Radio Regulations).]

[New subheading to be inserted after Paragraph 6.21]

Applications under No. 4.4 of the Radio Regulations

6.23 As explained in Section 2, in general we expect applicants to apply for frequency assignments and services which fall within the Frequency Allocation Table of the Radio Regulations. However, we understand that there may be some exceptional cases where this is not possible.

6.24 When we receive an application for use under No. 4.4. we will consider the following factors in making a decision:

a) whether the requested frequencies are under consideration to be included in the Radio Regulations in a future World Radiocommunication Conference;

b) whether there is evidence that the application could promote economic growth and enable early realisation of citizen and consumer benefits from new services or technologies; and

c) whether there is reason to be confident that the proposed use would not result in harmful interference to other authorised spectrum users.

6.25 Under the ITU Radio Regulations, Ofcom is responsible for ensuring that any frequency assignments operating under No. 4.4. do not cause harmful interference to other frequency assignments that comply with the Radio Regulations. Therefore, an applicant wishing to apply to use frequencies under this arrangement will need to explain to Ofcom how it has determined that its planned use will not cause harmful interference to all other services (on land, in the air and in space). Ofcom may also request that the applicant provides technical evidence in support of their application. Ofcom reserves the right to share this evidence with third parties, including the ITU.

6.26 Prior to launching its first satellite(s), an operator planning to operate a satellite service under No. 4.4 must provide us with up-to-date contact details for its space operations centre

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New version

(SOC). The SOC must be ready to immediately eliminate interference and/or cease operation of its service if required to do so by Ofcom.

6.27 We reserve the right to cancel a filing if we assess that the operator is not complying with our instructions related to complying with these requirements.

Section 7

Current version

New version

7.2 The performance of Ofcom's functions, as set out in this section 7, is dependent upon the applicant satisfying the criteria stated in sections 4.5 to 4.8 of this document and Ofcom receiving correct and complete information from the applicant at each stage of the process, as described below.

7.8 Ofcom will acknowledge receipt of the notification data, as specified in Appendix 4 of the Radio Regulations, from the applicant within two working days. The information must be provided to Ofcom by the applicant in the current ITU software format. If the intention is for the assignments to be recorded in the MIFR under No. 11.41 of the Radio Regulations, the provisions set out in sections 6.4 to 6.8 apply. Ofcom will then aim to submit the data to the ITU-BR within 10 working days of its receipt from the applicant. Applicants will be sent copies of Ofcom's email submission to the ITU-BR and also of the ITU-BR's email confirmation of receipt of the data.

7.12 For geostationary satellite networks, operators will be required, at the request of Ofcom, including if and when requested by the ITU-BR, to send to Ofcom additional information regarding the geostationary satellite network using the corresponding filings. A non-exhaustive list of these deliverables is provided in Section 5.7.

7.15 For any new application to use a frequency assignment covering a British Overseas Territory in a planned band, Ofcom will consult with the government of the British Overseas Territory to determine how to process the application (see sections 6.20 and 6.21 of this document).

7.16 Action under sections 6.15 to 6.21, as appropriate, will need to be completed before any action by Ofcom under this section 7 is taken. The following procedures will then apply.

7.2 The performance of Ofcom's functions, as set out in this section 7, is dependent upon the applicant satisfying the criteria stated in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.8 of this document and Ofcom receiving correct and complete information from the applicant at each stage of the process, as described below.

7.8 Ofcom will acknowledge receipt of the notification data, as specified in Appendix 4 of the Radio Regulations, from the applicant within two working days. The information must be provided to Ofcom by the applicant in the current ITU software format. If the intention is for the assignments to be recorded in the MIFR under No. 11.41 of the Radio Regulations, the provisions set out in paragraphs 6.5 to 6.9 apply. Ofcom will then aim to submit the data to the ITU-BR within 10 working days of its receipt from the applicant. Applicants will be sent copies of Ofcom's email submission to the ITU-BR and also of the ITU-BR's email confirmation of receipt of the data.

7.12 For geostationary satellite networks, operators will be required, at the request of Ofcom, including if and when requested by the ITU-BR, to send to Ofcom additional information regarding the geostationary satellite network using the corresponding filings. A non-exhaustive list of these deliverables is provided in paragraph 5.7.

7.15 For any new application to use a frequency assignment covering a British Overseas Territory in a planned band, Ofcom will consult with the government of the British Overseas Territory to determine how to process the application (see paragraphs 6.21 and 6.22 of this document).

7.16 Action under paragraphs 6.16 to 6.22, as appropriate, will need to be completed before any action by Ofcom under this section 7 is taken. The following procedures will then apply.

Current version

New version

7.20 For geostationary satellite networks, operators will be required, at the request of Ofcom, including if and when requested by the ITU-BR, to send to Ofcom additional information regarding the geostationary satellite network using the corresponding filings. A non-exhaustive list of these deliverables is provided in Section 5.7.

7.22 Action under sections 6.15 to 6.21, as appropriate, will need to be completed before any action by Ofcom under this section 7 is taken. The following procedures will then apply.

7.27 For geostationary satellite networks, operators will be required, at the request of Ofcom, including if and when requested by the ITU-BR, to send to Ofcom additional information regarding the geostationary satellite network using the corresponding filings. A non-exhaustive list of these deliverables is provided in Section 5.7.

[New footnote to be inserted on the 'Special Sections Publications' subheading after paragraph 7.28]

7.29 The obligations under the Radio Regulations that Ofcom transfer to a satellite operator, as described in this document extend beyond the process leading to the recording of the assignments in the Master Register. Once the assignment is recorded the operator must engage in dialogue with the operators of later networks through the coordination process (as described in section 2.14 of this document).

7.20 For geostationary satellite networks, operators will be required, at the request of Ofcom, including if and when requested by the ITU-BR, to send to Ofcom additional information regarding the geostationary satellite network using the corresponding filings. A non-exhaustive list of these deliverables is provided in paragraph 5.7.

7.22 Action under paragraphs 6.16 to 6.22, as appropriate, will need to be completed before any action by Ofcom under this section 7 is taken. The following procedures will then apply.

7.27 For geostationary satellite networks, operators will be required, at the request of Ofcom, including if and when requested by the ITU-BR, to send to Ofcom additional information regarding the geostationary satellite network using the corresponding filings. A non-exhaustive list of these deliverables is provided in paragraph 5.7.

Footnote 29 - ITU "special sections" refer to specific publications within the BR IFIC that detail requests for coordination, advance publication information, and other relevant data for space services.

7.29 The obligations under the Radio Regulations that Ofcom transfers to a satellite operator, as described in this document, extend beyond the process leading to the recording of the assignments in the Master Register. Once the assignment is recorded the operator must engage in dialogue with the operators of later networks through the coordination process (as described in paragraph 2.22 of this document).

Current version

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7.30 In order to aid the national administrations and their operators in the coordination process, the ITU produces a fortnightly publication called the 'International Frequency Information Circular - Space Services' (Space BR IFIC) which contains details of space networks proceeding through the various stages of the coordination and notification procedures. Administrations are required by the ITU-BR to identify issues of potential interference arising from these networks in accordance with the Radio Regulations procedures. Ofcom, in turn, passes this obligation on to operators.

7.31 The Special Sections are described in the preface for the BR IFIC²⁵. In order to give each UK operator the best advantage in coordinating its networks, Ofcom, in its capacity as the UK administration, wishes to respond to all Special Sections in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the Radio Regulations. Operators are responsible for examining Special Sections and responding appropriately to Ofcom.

7.32 The BR IFIC can be obtained from the ITU for a one-off or annual subscription fee and comes in DVD-ROM format. The disc contains ITU software, Special Sections in PDF format and an Access Database. This database can also be downloaded, free of charge, from the website but the ITU recommends the use of the PDF versions published on the DVD-ROM as these are considered to be the definitive data source. The Special Sections contained on the BR IFIC are published in accordance with the procedures of Article 9 and Article 11 and Appendices 30, 30A and 30B of the Radio Regulations. A table containing a list of all current and previous Special Section types with descriptors is available on the ITU Website at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/space/snl/descss/index.asp>

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[New paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 7.32]

7.33 UK operators can submit their comments through our online portal, Ofcom's BR IFIC Commenting System. You will first need to contact Ofcom at ifc.enquiries@ofcom.org.uk to obtain login information. The deadlines for submitting comments can be found under the FAQ section on our website²³.

[Footnote 23 - <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/space-and-satellites/satellite-filings>]

Section 8

Current version

New version

8.3 Such authorisation in 8.1 above will be given by Ofcom in a letter of introduction to the other administration, copied to the UK applicant concerned. This letter will confirm that the applicant has the UK administration's authorisation, with respect to the specified networks, to:

- a) enter into coordination by correspondence whenever possible;
- b) arrange and attend operator to operator coordination meetings; and
- c) conclude operator to operator agreements.

8.3 Such authorisation in paragraph 8.1 above will be given by Ofcom in a letter of introduction to the other administration, copied to the UK applicant concerned. This letter will confirm that the applicant has the UK administration's authorisation, with respect to the specified networks, to:

- a) enter into coordination by correspondence whenever possible;
- b) arrange and attend operator to operator coordination meetings; and
- c) conclude operator to operator agreements.

Section 9

Current version

New version

9.1 The applicant, including those from the British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, may need to obtain a licence granted by the UK Space Agency under the Outer Space Act 1986 (as extended to the British Overseas Territories where appropriate) before the date of the planned launch of the satellite. (See <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-space-agency>)

9.2 In addition to any other legal requirements, applicants who intend to carry audio-visual content (television services) should consider whether a licence or authorisation is required for the content service(s). Operators may contact the Television Broadcast Licensing Team at Ofcom. (See <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv/ifi/tvlicensing/>)

[New paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 9.2]

9.3 Applicants are advised to check with appropriate administrations as to whether they are required to obtain national authorisations with respect to the use of the relevant frequencies or the provision of services.

9.1 The applicant, including those from the British Overseas Territories, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, may need to [obtain a licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority](#) under the Outer Space Act 1986 or Space Industry Act 2018 (as extended to the British Overseas Territories where appropriate) before the date of the planned launch of the satellite.

9.2 In addition to any other legal requirements, applicants who intend to carry audio-visual content (television services) should consider whether a licence or authorisation is required for the content service(s). Operators can find more information about this on our [website](#).

9.3 Applicants planning satellite communications and other data services for consumers should also consider [wider regulatory obligations](#) regarding the operation of their service.

9.4 Other UK legislation may also apply. Applicants are advised to check with appropriate administrations as to whether they are required to obtain national authorisations with respect to the use of the relevant frequencies or the provision of services.

Section 11

Current version	New version
11.2 Any transfer must be between companies or organisations that meet the criteria contained in sections 4.5 to 4.8 of this document.	11.2 Any transfer must be between companies or organisations that meet the criteria contained in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.8 of this document.
11.4 Ofcom reserves the right to consult publicly prior to authorising any transfer described in section 11.1.	11.4 Ofcom reserves the right to consult publicly prior to authorising any transfer described in paragraph 11.1.

Section 12

Current version	New version
[Section title]	[Section title]
Cancellation and relinquishment of UK satellite networks filings	Cancellation, suspension and relinquishment of UK satellite networks filings
<p>12.4 Sections 12.5 to 12.9 will apply to the use of an assignment in either a planned or non-planned band which is either:</p> <p>a) notified and recorded in the Master Register and in operation; or,</p> <p>b) still in the process of coordination.</p>	<p>12.4 Paragraphs 12.5 to 12.9 will apply to the use of an assignment in either a planned or non-planned band which is either:</p> <p>a) notified and recorded in the Master Register and in operation; or,</p> <p>b) still in the process of coordination.</p>
<p>12.6 If, in Ofcom’s opinion, the information supplied by the operator shows that insufficient progress has been made against the milestone commitments, Ofcom will consult with the relevant operator. Ofcom will provide the operator with an opportunity to remedy the situation, to ensure that progress is brought into line with the milestone commitments, within a specified timeframe.</p>	<p>12.6 If, in Ofcom’s opinion, the information supplied by the operator shows that insufficient progress has been made against the deliverable commitments, Ofcom will consult with the relevant operator. Ofcom will provide the operator with an opportunity to remedy the situation, to ensure that progress is brought into line with the deliverable commitments, within a specified timeframe.</p>
<p>12.7 If the operator fails to remedy the situation within the specified timeframe, referred to in section 12.6, Ofcom may cancel the filing.</p>	<p>12.7 If the operator fails to remedy the situation within the specified timeframe, referred to in paragraph 12.6, Ofcom may cancel the filing.</p>
<p>12.8 Ofcom will consult with the Secretary of State prior to taking any action to cancel a filing in accordance with section 12.7.</p>	<p>12.8 Ofcom will consult with the Secretary of State prior to taking any action to cancel a filing in accordance with paragraph 12.7.</p>
[Subheading after paragraph 12.9]	[Subheading after paragraph 12.9]
Other Reasons for Cancellation	Other Reasons for Suspension or Cancellation
<p>12.12 If the matter described in section 12.11 has not been remedied within six months Ofcom may either suspend or cancel the assignment.</p>	<p>12.12 If the matter described in paragraph 12.11 has not been remedied within six months Ofcom may either suspend or cancel the assignment.</p>

Section 13

Current version

New version

13.5 A satellite operator in a British Overseas Territory, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may notify the appropriate regulatory authority in its jurisdiction that it wishes to relinquish an existing filing or a filing which is still in the coordination process. The appropriate regulatory authority will then have a period of six months (or such longer period as may be agreed with Ofcom) in which to manage the relinquishment and reassignment of the filing to another operator within the same jurisdiction, subject to compliance with due diligence requirements, as set out in section 5 of this document, and the ITU rules and regulations. If no reassignment has been completed within this six month period, Ofcom will follow the procedure as set out in sections 12.1 to 12.3.

13.8 If, in Ofcom's opinion, there is insufficient evidence of progress as against the milestone commitments on the basis of the information supplied, by the operator, Ofcom will consult with the relevant British Overseas Territory, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and provide an opportunity in which to remedy the situation.

13.6 Sections 13.7 to 13.9 will apply to a filing which is either:

- a) notified and recorded in the Master Register and in operation; or
- b) still in the process of coordination.

13.9 If the situation is not resolved after the expiry of the time period referred to in section 13.8, as assessed by Ofcom on the basis of the due diligence documentation and any other evidence supplied by the operator, ultimately Ofcom may cancel the filing in accordance with the procedure set out in section 13.5.

13.12 If the matter described in section 13.11 has not been remedied within six months Ofcom may either suspend or cancel the filing.

13.5 A satellite operator in a British Overseas Territory, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man may notify the appropriate regulatory authority in its jurisdiction that it wishes to relinquish an existing filing or a filing which is still in the coordination process. The appropriate regulatory authority will then have a period of six months (or such longer period as may be agreed with Ofcom) in which to manage the relinquishment and reassignment of the filing to another operator within the same jurisdiction, subject to compliance with due diligence requirements, as set out in section 5 of this document, and the ITU rules and regulations. If no reassignment has been completed within this six month period, Ofcom will follow the procedure as set out in paragraphs 12.1 to 12.3.

13.8 If, in Ofcom's opinion, there is insufficient evidence of progress as against the deliverable commitments on the basis of the information supplied by the operator, Ofcom will consult with the relevant British Overseas Territory, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and provide an opportunity in which to remedy the situation.

13.6 Paragraphs 13.7 to 13.9 will apply to a filing which is either:

- a) notified and recorded in the Master Register and in operation; or
- b) still in the process of coordination.

13.9 If the situation is not resolved after the expiry of the time period referred to in paragraph 13.8, as assessed by Ofcom on the basis of the due diligence documentation and any other evidence supplied by the operator, ultimately Ofcom may cancel the filing in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 13.5.

13.12 If the matter described in paragraph 13.11 has not been remedied within six months Ofcom may either suspend or cancel the filing.

Annex 1

Current version	New version
<p>[Due Diligence definition]</p> <p>Process by which Ofcom ensures that an application to launch and operate a satellite network demonstrates sufficient technical, financial and legal credentials and by which progress against milestones are monitored.</p>	<p>[Due Diligence definition]</p> <p>Process by which Ofcom ensures that an application to launch and operate a satellite network demonstrates sufficient technical, financial and legal credentials and by which progress against deliverables are monitored.</p>

Annex 2

Current version	New version
<p>[Annex title]</p> <p>A2. Chart showing key milestones</p>	<p>[Annex title]</p> <p>A2. Chart showing example satellite business plan</p>
<p>[Figure title]</p> <p>Figure 1 – Typical Gantt Chart for Business Plan</p>	<p>[Figure title]</p> <p>Figure 1 – Example satellite business plan for due diligence</p>
<p>[Years shown in column headings]</p> <p>2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011</p>	<p>[Years shown in column headings]</p> <p>2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030</p>
<p>[ID 1 Task name]</p> <p>RFP for satellite(s)</p>	<p>[ID 1 Task name - acronym spelled out]</p> <p>Request for Proposal (RFP) for satellite(s)</p>
<p>[ID 4 Task name]</p> <p>Spacecraft CDR</p>	<p>[ID 4 Task name - acronym spelled out]</p> <p>Spacecraft Critical Design Review (CDR)</p>

Annex 3

Current version

New version

[New paragraph A3.1 to be inserted before the charts]

A3.1 The charts in this annex provide a high-level overview of how we process filing applications. Further detail is provided in the main body of these Procedures.