

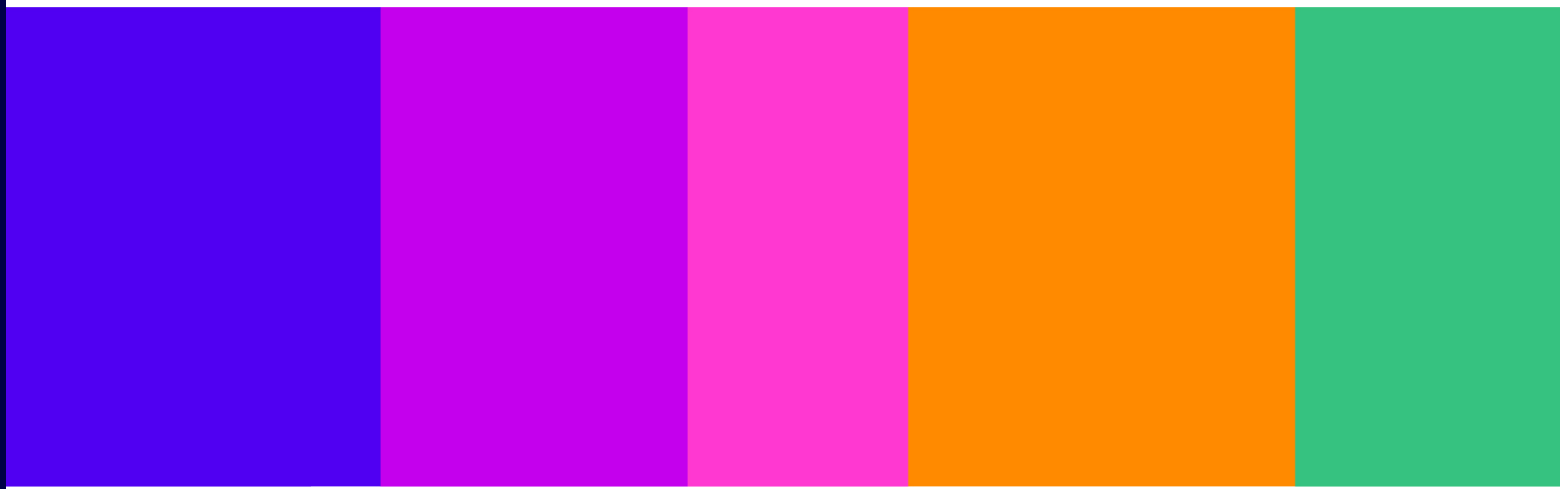
Notice of proposals to make the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

Consultation on regulations to update the fees for Wireless Telegraphy Act licences

Consultation

Published 12 February 2024

Closing date for responses: 12 March 2024



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1. Overview

- 1.1 This document consults and seeks representations on draft regulations, the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (the “Proposed Regulations”) that if implemented would amend the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) Regulations 2020 (the “2020 Regulations”). The Proposed Regulations set out the changes that we propose to make to licence charges (fees) for some classes of Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (the “WT Act”) licences.
- 1.2 When setting spectrum management fees, we must act in accordance with the provisions of the WT Act. The WT Act gives Ofcom powers to set licence fees at a level necessary to recover our costs or above this level where we consider it is appropriate to do so in light, in particular, of our statutory duties.
- 1.3 The Proposed Regulations will implement changes on which we have previously consulted and published our decision. These decisions relate to the following licences:
 - Shared Access (Low Power) and Shared Access (Medium Power) licences;
 - Enhanced Long-range Navigation (eLoran) licence;
 - Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operator Radio Licence; and
 - High Duty Cycle Network Relay Points licence.
- 1.4 Therefore, in response to this consultation we are only seeking comments on whether the Proposed Regulations correctly implement Ofcom policy decisions. Unless stated in this document, all other licence charges would remain unchanged from the 2020 Regulations.

What we are proposing – in brief

We are proposing to make new regulations (Proposed Regulations) that would amend the existing 2020 Regulations in relation to the introduction of three new licence products and their associated fees. The Proposed Regulations would:

Implement our [decision](#) to extend our Shared Access framework to the 26 GHz and 40 GHz band. In September 2023 we decided to make access to the 26 GHz band (24.45-27.5 GHz) and in the 40 GHz band (40.5-43.5 GHz) available for new innovative local services that use mobile technologies. We did this by adding these bands to our Shared Access licensing framework. We stated that where spectrum will not be awarded via an auction process, we would make access available at specific locations on a first come, first served basis, using our Shared Access licences. This proposed statutory instrument would introduce fees for these new Shared Access licences.

Implement our [decision](#) to introduce a new licence product – (eLoran) licences. This follows Ofcom’s October 2023 decision to authorise use of the 90-110 kHz spectrum band for Enhanced Long-Range Navigation (eLoran) systems. eLoran is a ground-based alternative to satellite-based positioning navigation and timing (PNT) systems. PNT systems are important as they provide precise positioning information, help navigation and can provide highly accurate timing, all of which are an essential part of modern communications networks. This new licence enables interested operators to provide an eLoran alternative, complement or back-up, to satellite based PNT. This proposed statutory instrument would align with our decision to introduce a new licensing product – eLoran licences and associated fees.

Implement our [decision](#) to introduce a new licence product – Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operator Radio Licence. This follows Ofcom’s decision in December 2022 to introduce a new licence that authorises the use of a range of radio equipment on drones. This new licence was needed as technological developments have increased the operational range and altitude capabilities of UAS. Our new licence product means that a licensed UAS operator can use a range of equipment on their drone fleet that previously they were not authorised to use. This proposed statutory instrument would align with our decision to introduce a new licensing product – UAS Operator licences and associated fees.

Implement our [decision](#) to remove the High Duty Cycle Network Relay Points licence product and associated fee. This follows Ofcom’s decision in April 2021 to make equipment across the 870-874.4 MHz band exempt from the need to hold a licence. Use of devices in this band were previously authorised under a light licensing regime as a precautionary approach to allow us to manage high densities of devices interfering with each other. Due to updates in the equipment standards these interference problems have not materialised. As a result, we have decided to exempt equipment in the band from requiring a licence as it is no longer necessary. This proposed statutory instrument would remove the High Duty Cycle Network Relay Points licence product and associated fees.

- 1.5 In accordance with the requirements of section 122(4) and (5) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (the “WT Act”) this document gives notice of our intention to make the Proposed Regulations.
- 1.6 Comments on the Proposed Regulations are invited by **5pm on Tuesday 12 March 2024**. Subject to consideration of responses, we intend to bring the Proposed Regulations into force as soon as is practical. The Proposed Regulations are included in this document at Annex 1.
- 1.7 The overview section in this document is a simplified high-level summary only. The proposals we are consulting on, and our reasoning are set out in the full document.

2. Notice

Introduction

- 2.1 This document gives notice of our proposal to make the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (the “Proposed Regulations”). It also sets out the general effect of the Proposed Regulations. A copy of the Proposed Regulations is in Annex 1 of this document.
- 2.2 Before making any regulations, we are required by section 122(4) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (the “WT Act”) to give notice of our proposal to do so. Under section 122(5), the notice must state that Ofcom proposes to make the regulations in question, set out their general effect, specify an address from which a copy of the proposed regulations or order may be obtained, and specify a time before which any representations with respect to the proposal must be made to Ofcom. That time must be at least one month beginning with the day after that on which the notice is given or published.
- 2.3 Ofcom is responsible for authorising civil use of the radio spectrum and achieves this by granting wireless telegraphy licences under the WT Act and by making regulations exempting users of particular equipment from the requirement to hold such a licence. Under section 12 of the WT Act we must prescribe in regulations the sums payable in respect of wireless telegraphy licences other than those awarded by auction.
- 2.4 The power under section 12 of the WT Act enables us to recover the cost of administering and managing WT Act licences. However, section 13 of the WT Act permits us to recover sums greater than those we incur in performing our spectrum management functions. This is termed Administered Incentive Pricing (AIP) and refers to prices for annual licence fees which are set above administrative costs to reflect a range of spectrum management objectives, in particular to provide incentives for licensees to use their spectrum more efficiently. This contributes to discharging our duties under section 3 of the WT Act which require us to efficiently manage the radio spectrum.
- 2.5 Unless stated in the following sections, all existing licence charges will remain the same. This consultation invites comments on whether the Proposed Regulations give effect to a range of policy decisions previously consulted upon.

Document structure

The remainder of the document is structured as follows:

- Section 3 explains the proposals to be implemented by the Proposed Regulations;
- Section 4 sets out the general effects of the Proposed Regulations;
- Annex 1 contains a copy of the draft proposed Regulations;
- Annex 2 contains an illustration of the proposed amendments to the 2020 Regulations;
- Annex 3 contains our impact assessment;
- Annexes 4 to 6 provide information on our approach to consultations; and
- Annex 7 contains the consultation question.

Next steps

- 2.6 Following the publication of this consultation document, stakeholders are invited to provide their feedback on the drafting of the Proposed Regulations. Those who wish to do so have until **5pm on Tuesday 12 March 2024** to make representations. After taking any responses into account, we expect to release a statement on this consultation in May 2024, and to bring the regulations into force as soon as is practical.

3. Proposed changes

- 3.1 This section outlines our proposals to make the Proposed Regulations in relation to the following licences:
- a) Low and medium powered Shared Access licences in the 26 GHz band (24.45-27.5 GHz) and 40 GHz band (40.5-43.5 GHz);
 - b) Enhanced Long-Range Navigation (eLoran) licences (90-110 kHz);
 - c) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operator Radio Licences; and
 - d) High Duty Cycle Network Relay Points.

Availability of Shared Access licences in the 26 GHz and 40 GHz bands

- 3.2 On 19 May 2022 we published our [consultation](#) which set out proposals, among other things, to liberalise and further extend the Shared Access Framework to the 26 GHz band. In March 2023 we published a follow-up document containing a [statement and consultation](#), which included revised proposals in relation to the use of Shared Access licences in the 26 GHz band and further extended those proposals to include the 40 GHz band.
- 3.3 Shared Access licences enable new uses of spectrum by providing localised access to spectrum by co-ordinating spectrum use between new and incumbent users.
- 3.4 On 27 September 2023 we published our [statement](#) (the “September Statement”) which set out our decision to proceed with these proposals, including the associated fee structure, that would authorise use of spectrum in the 26 GHz and 40 GHz bands within our existing Shared Access Framework.
- 3.5 The September Statement confirmed that the use of Shared Access licences in the 26 GHz band would be available for low power and medium power use from early 2024. It also confirmed that the 40 GHz band would become available for low power and medium power use, but not until 1 June 2028.
- 3.6 **Table 1** below reflects Ofcom’s decision on the level of fees that should be applied to Shared Access licences in the 26 GHz and 40 GHz bands.

Table 1: Fees per annum for Shared Access licences in 26 GHz and 40 GHz bands

Bandwidth	Fee
Up to 100 MHz	£80
200 MHz	£160
400 MHz	£320
800 MHz	£640

- 3.7 The Proposed Regulations set out in Annex 1 are intended to implement our decision, as set out in the September 2023 statement.

Enhanced Long-range Navigation (eLoran) licence

- 3.8 On 19 May 2023 we published our [consultation](#) which set out proposals to make radio spectrum in the 90-110 kHz frequency range available for eLoran positioning, navigation and timing systems in the UK. We proposed that the way to access this spectrum would be through introducing a new ‘Spectrum Access: eLoran’ licence that would be subject to a cost-recovery fee.
- 3.9 eLoran uses transmitters operating within the 90-110 kHz band to provide a ground-based alternative, complement or back-up to positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) systems delivered via existing Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), such as GPS.
- 3.10 On 23 October we published our [statement](#) which confirmed our decision to introduce a new licence, the ‘Enhanced Long-range Navigation (eLoran) licence. Our statement also confirmed that each licence would be subject to an annual licence fee of £200.
- 3.11 The Proposed Regulations set out in Annex 1 are intended to implement our decision as set out in the October 2023 statement.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operator Radio Licence

- 3.12 In June 2022 we published our [consultation](#) which set out proposals that would help support the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), more commonly known as drones, at greater distances, which we said could lead to significant innovations to several industries. We proposed a new spectrum licence for drone operators, especially those looking to fly beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS), using mobile or satellite technologies.
- 3.13 Unmanned aircraft come in a variety of sizes, from small toys to large aircraft. Typically, an unmanned aircraft, or drone, would have no pilot on board and would be controlled by a ground based remote pilot, with a communications system linking the two. Our proposed Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operator Radio licence would authorise a licensed operator to use a range of radio equipment on their UAS/drone fleet.
- 3.14 On 16 December 2022 we published our [statement](#) which confirmed our decision to introduce the new licence that would authorise the use of a range of radio equipment on drones. Our statement also confirmed that the licence would have an indefinite duration and would be subject to an annual fee of £75.
- 3.15 The Proposed Regulations set out in Annex 1 are intended to implement our decision as set out in the December 2022 statement.

High duty cycle network relay points

- 3.16 In December 2020 we published our [consultation](#) setting out proposals for making changes to licence exemptions for wireless telegraphy devices. Our proposals included, among other things, to update the authorisation approach and technical criteria for SRD data networks in

the 870-874.4 MHz spectrum band, including for 'High Duty Cycle Network Relay Points' (HDCNRP).

- 3.17 HDCNRPs enable previously unconnected devices, both in the home and across the country, to communicate and share data with one another.
- 3.18 In our April 2021 [statement](#) we confirmed our decision to change the licensing regime and to make SRD data networks in this band licence exempt. As a result of this, the 'High Duty Cycle Network Relay Points' (HDCNRP) licence product, which previously authorised use of this equipment in the 870-873 MHz band, became obsolete. We are now proposing to amend the regulations to remove the HDCNRP licence product and associated fee.
- 3.19 The Proposed Regulations set out in Annex 1 are intended to implement our decision as set out in the April 2021 statement.

4. General Effect of Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

The legislative framework

- 4.1 Section 8(1) of the WT Act confers on Ofcom a power to grant a wireless telegraphy licence in respect of a “wireless telegraphy station” or “wireless telegraphy apparatus”. It is unlawful and an offence to install or use wireless telegraphy apparatus without holding a licence granted by Ofcom, unless the use of such equipment is exempted.
- 4.2 Ofcom’s statutory powers and duties in relation to spectrum management are set out primarily in the Communications Act 2003 (the “2003 Act”) and the WT Act. Amongst our functions are the making available of frequencies for use for particular purposes and the granting of rights of use of spectrum through wireless telegraphy licences and licence exemptions.
- 4.3 Our principal duties under the 2003 Act, when carrying out our functions and exercising our powers, are to further the interests of citizens and consumers, where appropriate by promoting competition. In doing so, we are also required (among other things) to secure the optimal use of spectrum and the availability throughout the United Kingdom of a wide range of electronic communications services. We interpret “optimal use” to mean that the spectrum is used in a way that maximises the value that citizens and consumers derive from it, including the wider social value of spectrum use, and taking into account the specific consumer and citizen interests, including the interests of particular groups within society.
- 4.4 We must also have regard to: (i) the desirability of promoting competition in relevant markets; (ii) the desirability of encouraging investment and innovation in relevant markets; (iii) the different needs and interests, so far as the use of the electro-magnetic spectrum for wireless telegraphy is concerned, of all persons who may wish to make use of it; and (iv) the different interests of persons in the different parts of the United Kingdom, of the different ethnic communities within the United Kingdom and of persons living in rural and in urban areas.
- 4.5 Additionally, in carrying out our spectrum functions we have a duty under section 3 of the WT Act to have regard in particular to: (i) the extent to which the spectrum is available for use, or further use, for wireless telegraphy; (ii) the demand for use of that spectrum for wireless telegraphy; and (iii) the demand that is likely to arise in future for such use.
- 4.6 We also have a duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting: (i) the efficient management and use of the spectrum for wireless telegraphy; (ii) the economic and other benefits that may arise from the use of wireless telegraphy; (iii) the development of innovative services; and (iv) competition in the provision of electronic communications services.

- 4.7 Under section 12 of the WT Act, Ofcom may prescribe in regulations the sums payable in respect of wireless telegraphy licences other than those awarded by auction. This power enables us to recover the cost of administering and managing WT Act licences.
- 4.8 Section 13 of the WT Act permits us to recover sums greater than those we incur in performing our spectrum management functions (this is termed ‘Administrative Incentive Pricing’ and abbreviated to ‘AIP’), to reflect a range of spectrum management objectives.
- 4.9 Ofcom’s fee setting and charging powers allow us to provide incentives for licensees to use their spectrum more efficiently. This goes to discharging our duties under section 3 of the WT Act.

Extent of application and entry into force of the Proposed Regulations

- 4.10 The Proposed Regulations will apply in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, subject to formal agreement of the Island Authorities.
- 4.11 The Proposed Regulations will come into force as soon as is practical after making them. The final regulation will be made after Ofcom has concluded its consultation process.
- 4.12 A draft of the Proposed Regulations is set out in Annex 1.

Amendment of the 2020 Regulations

- 4.13 Regulation 2(1) of the Proposed Regulations provides that the 2020 Regulations shall be amended in accordance with regulations 2(2) to 2(5) of the Proposed Regulations.
- 4.14 An illustration of the proposed changes to the 2020 Regulations is set out in Annex 2.

Comments and representations

- 4.15 We are inviting comments on the proposal to make the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the Proposed Regulations? Please provide evidence that would support your comments on the proposals.

- 4.16 Comments on the Proposed Regulations are invited by **5pm on Tuesday 12 March 2024**. Subject to consideration of responses, we intend to bring the new Regulations into force as soon as is practical.

A1. Draft Proposed Regulations

D R A F T

2024 No. 0000

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

The Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

Made - - - - 2024
Coming into force - - **

The Office of Communications (“OFCOM”), in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 12, 13(2) and 122(7) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006⁽¹⁾ (“the Act”), makes the following Regulations.

Before making these Regulations, OFCOM have given notice of their proposal to do so in accordance with section 122(4)(a) of the Act, published notice of their proposal in accordance with section 122(4)(b) of the Act, and have considered the representations made to them before the time specified in the notice in accordance with section 122(4)(c) of the Act.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 and shall come into force on [*** 2024].

Amendments to the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) Regulations 2020

2.—(1) Schedule 2 (Licence Charges and Payment Intervals) to the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) Regulations 2020⁽²⁾ shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (5).

(2) Under the heading “Aeronautical”, after the licence class entry “Aircraft (Transportable)” insert the following entry—

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operator Radio Licence	£75		months
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(3) Under the heading “Science and Technology”—

(a) after the licence class “Ground Probing Radar” delete the following entry:

⁽¹⁾ 2006 c.36

⁽²⁾ S.I. 2020/1068, as amended by S.I. 2021/1117, S.I. 2022/1310 and S.I. 2023/400

High Duty Cycle	£75		12 months
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(b) after the licence class entry “Manually Configurable White Space Devices”, insert the following entry:

Enhanced Long Range Navigation (eLoran)	£200		12 months
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(4) Under the heading “Spectrum Access” in relation to the licence classes “Shared Access (Low Power)” before the licence class entry “Shared Access (Medium Power)”, substitute the following entry:

		(d) £80 for each 100 MHz channel under a licence of use in the 26 GHz and 40 GHz bands	12 months
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(5) Under the heading “Spectrum Access” in relation to the licence classes “Shared Access (Medium Power)”, and before the licence class entry “Spectrum Access Offshore Mobile”, insert the following entry:

		(d) £80 for each authorisation under a licence of use of up to a 100 MHz channel in the 24.45-27.5 GHz or 40.5-43.5 GHz bands.	12 months
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***** 2024

Group Director, Spectrum Group
Office of Communications

A2. Illustration of the proposed amendments to the 2020 Regulations

A6.1 Subject to consideration of responses, Table 2 below is an illustration of where the proposed changes will be made to the 2020 Regulations³. This is for information purposes only. A full consolidated version of the 2020 Regulations can be found [here](#).

A6.2 **Table 2: Illustration of the proposed amendments to the 2020 Regulations**

SCHEDULE 2 LICENCE CHARGES AND PAYMENT INTERVALS

The sum payable on the issue of the licence and on the expiry of each prescribed payment interval			
<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>	<i>Column 3</i>	<i>Column 4</i>
<i>Class of licence</i>	<i>Fixed sums</i>	<i>Variable sums</i>	<i>Prescribed payment interval</i>
Aeronautical			
...
...
...
Aeronautical Navigation Aid Stations		£50 for each navigational aid station.	12 months
Aircraft		(a) £20 for each aircraft which has an approved maximum take-off weight of not more than 3,200 kg.	36 months
		(b) £150 for each aircraft which has an approved maximum take-off weight of more than 3,200 kg but not more than 14,000 kg.	36 months
		(c) £350 for each aircraft which has an approved maximum take-off weight of more than 14,000 kg.	36 months

³ As amended by S.I. 2021/1117, S.I. 2022/1310 and S.I. 2023/400

Aircraft (Transportable)	£15		36 months
Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operator Radio Licence	£75		12 months
Amateur Band			
...		...	
Broadcasting			
...		...	
...
...
Science and Technology			
...	
...	
Ground Probing Radar	£50		36 months
High Duty Cycle Network Relay Points	£75		12 months
Manually Configurable White Space Devices	£1500		12 months
Enhanced Long Range Navigation (eLoran)	£200		12 months
Spectrum Access			
...	
...	...		
Shared Access (Low Power)		(a) £80 for each authorisation under a licence of use of a 2 x 3.3 MHz channel in the 1800 MHz band.	12 months
		(b) £80 for each authorisation under a licence of use of a 10	12 months

		MHz channel in the 2390–2400 MHz band.	
		(c) £80 for each 10 MHz channel under a licence of use in the 3.8–4.2 GHz band.	12 months
		(d) £320 for each authorisation under a licence of use in the 26 GHz band.	12 months
		(d) £80 for each 100 MHz channel under a licence of use in the 26 GHz and 40 GHz bands.	12 months
Shared Access (Medium Power)		(a) £80 for each authorisation under a licence of use of a 2 x 3.3 MHz channel in the 1800 MHz band.	12 months
		(b) £80 for each authorisation under a licence of use of a 10 MHz channel in the 2390–2400 MHz band.	12 months
		(c) £80 for each 10 MHz channel under a licence of use in the 3.8–4.2 GHz band.	12 months
		(d) £80 for each authorisation under a licence of use of up to a 100 MHz channel in the 24.45-27.5 GHz or 40.5-43.5 GHz bands.	12 months
Spectrum Access Offshore Mobile	£5000		60 months
...

A3. Impact assessment

Equality impact assessment

- A3.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the “2010 Act”) imposes a duty on Ofcom, when carrying out its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other prohibited conduct related to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. The 2010 Act also requires Ofcom to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share specified protected characteristics and persons who do not.
- A3.2 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the “1998 Act”) also imposes a duty on Ofcom, when carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in the 1998 Act.
- A3.3 To help us comply with our duties under the 2010 Act and the 1998 Act, we assess the impact of our proposals on persons sharing protected characteristics and in particular whether they may discriminate against such persons or impact on equality of opportunity or good relations.
- A3.4 We have given careful consideration to whether our proposed changes would have a particular impact on persons sharing protected characteristics (broadly including race, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership and religion or belief in the UK and also dependents and political opinion in Northern Ireland), and in particular whether they may discriminate against such persons.
- A3.5 When thinking about equality we think more broadly than persons that share protected characteristics identified in equalities legislation and think about potential impacts on various groups of persons (see paragraph 4.7 of our [impact assessment guidance](#))
- A3.6 In particular, section 3(4) of the Communications Act also requires us to have regard to the needs and interests of specific groups of persons when performing our duties, as appear to us to be relevant in the circumstances. These include:
- a) the vulnerability of children and of others whose circumstances appear to us to put them in need of special protection;
 - b) the needs of persons with disabilities, older persons and persons on low incomes; and
 - c) the different interests of persons in the different parts of the UK, of the different ethnic communities within the UK and of persons living in rural and in urban areas.
- A3.7 We do not consider that our proposals will affect any specific groups of persons (including persons that share protected characteristics under the 2010 Act or the 1998 Act) differently to the general population.
- A3.8 The benefits of the services that will be available as a result of these proposals, would apply equally to all users. Our decision to remove a licence product and associated fees would also

apply equally to all users. We therefore do not consider that our policies will have negative impacts on any groups sharing protected characteristics.⁴

Welsh language impact assessment

- A3.9 Ofcom is required to take Welsh language considerations into account when formulating, reviewing, or revising policies which are relevant to Wales (including proposals which are not targeted at Wales specifically but are of interest across the UK)⁵.
- A3.10 We do not consider our proposed changes and decisions have any impact on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language or treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. We also do not think there are ways in which our decisions and proposals could be formulated to have, or increase, a positive impact, or, not have adverse effects or decrease any adverse effects. This is because our planned changes and decisions relate to implementing licence charges regulations for licence products that are available to anyone within the UK.

⁴ [Wireless Telegraphy \(Content of Transmission\) Regulations](#) 1988 will continue to apply to the content of suffixes.

⁵ See Standards 84 – 89 of [Hysbysiad cydymffurfio](#) (in Welsh) and [compliance notice](#) (in English). Section 7 of the Welsh Language Commissioner's [Good Practice Advice Document](#) provides further advice and information on how bodies must comply with the Welsh Language Standards.

A4. Responding to this consultation

How to respond

- A4.1 Ofcom would like to receive views and comments on the issues raised in this document, by 5pm on **Tuesday 12 March 2024**.
- A4.2 You can download a response form from <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-3/proposals-to-update-the-fees-for-wireless-telegraphy-act-licences>. You can return this by email or post to the address provided in the response form.
- A4.3 If your response is a large file, or has supporting charts, tables or other data, please email it to regulations@ofcom.org.uk, as an attachment in Microsoft Word format, together with the [cover sheet](#).
- A4.4 Responses may alternatively be posted to the address below, marked with the title of the consultation:
- Updating fees for Wireless Telegraphy Act Licences
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
- A4.5 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.
- A4.6 We will publish a transcript of any audio or video responses we receive (unless your response is confidential)
- A4.7 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.
- A4.8 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.
- A4.9 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 7. 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.
- A4.10 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, please contact Amateur Review at regulations@ofcom.org.uk.

Confidentiality

- A4.11 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.
- A4.12 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.
- A4.13 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and try to respect it. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.
- A4.14 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.
- A4.15 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

- A4.16 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish a statement in May 2024.
- A4.17 If you wish, you can register to receive mail updates alerting you to new Ofcom publications.

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A4.18 Ofcom aims to make responding to a consultation as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex 5.
- A4.19 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.
- A4.20 If you would like to discuss these issues, or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally, please contact the corporation secretary:
- A4.21 Corporation Secretary
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
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Email: corporationsecretary@ofcom.org.uk

A5. Ofcom's consultation principles

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

Before the consultation

A5.1 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

A5.2 We will be clear about whom we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.

A5.3 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.

A5.4 We will consult for up to ten weeks, depending on the potential impact of our proposals.

A5.5 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.

A5.6 If we are not able to follow any of these seven principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

A5.7 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.

A6. 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)

A7. Consultation questions

Questions on the Proposed Regulations

- A7.1 As required by Section 122 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006, we must give notice of proposals that we intend to make and consider any representations that we receive. This document gives notice of our proposal to make the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the Proposed Regulations? Please provide evidence that would support your comments on the proposals.

- A7.2 Comments on the Proposed Regulations are invited by **5pm on Tuesday 12 March 2024**. Subject to consideration of all responses, we intend to bring the new Regulations into force as soon as is practical.