

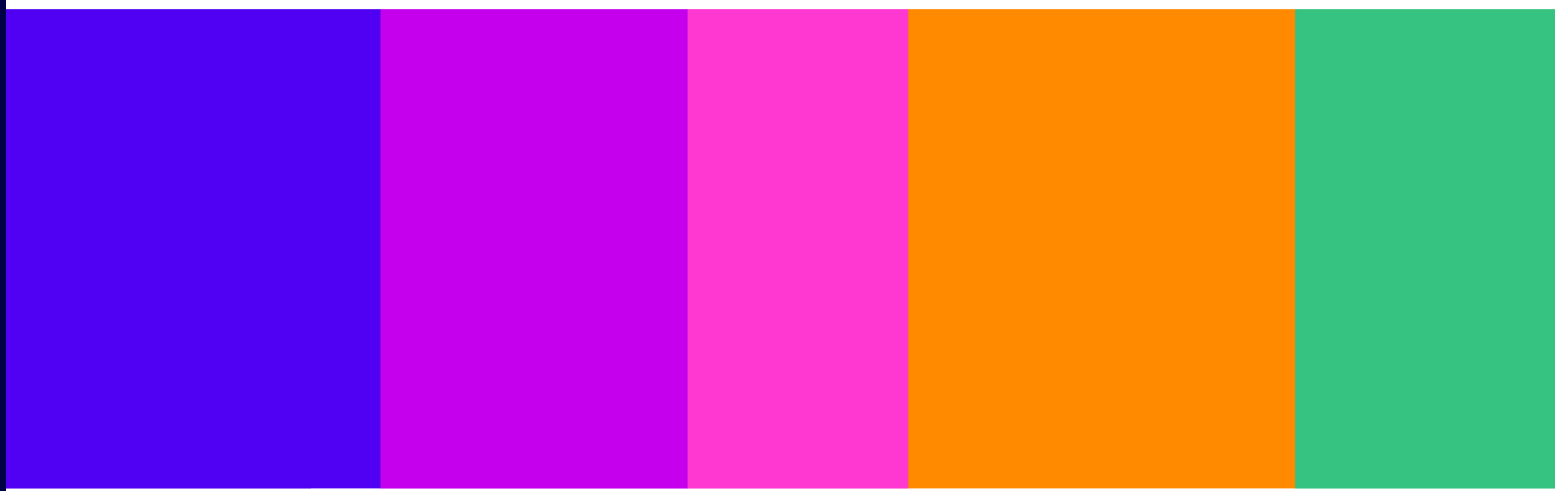
Upper 6 GHz licence exemption regulations update

Notice that Ofcom has made the Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2026

Statement

Published 30 October 2026

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1. Overview

- 1.1 This document provides notice that Ofcom has made the Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2026 (the “Amending Regulations”). The Amending Regulations amend the [Wireless Telegraphy \(Exemption\) Regulations 2021](#) (the “2021 Regulations”) which exempt specific types of radio equipment from the requirement to hold a licence under [section 8\(1\) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006](#) (the “WT Act”) provided they meet the requirements set out in the 2021 Regulations. We have also decided to update Interface Requirement 2030 (“IR 2030”) which sets out the criteria that Short Range Devices (SRDs) must comply with in order to benefit from the exemptions provided for in the 2021 Regulations.
- 1.2 The amendment to the 2021 Regulations inserts reference to an updated [IR 2030](#).

What we have decided – in brief

We have made the Amending Regulations and have updated IR2030. The Regulations amend existing exemptions by referencing the updated IR2030, which extends the frequency range for licence exempt Wi-Fi access from 5925–6425 MHz to 5925–6585 MHz.

This follows a series of consultations and statements relating to our approach to increasing access to the 6GHz band for licence exempt Wi-Fi use. Making the Amending Regulations implements Ofcom policy decisions set out in our July 2026 Statement [Expanding access to the 6GHz band for commercial mobile and Wi-Fi services](#).

The Regulations are intended to come into effect on 10th November 2026.

2. Introduction

Background

- 2.1 In managing the use of spectrum in the UK, Ofcom either authorises its use through a wireless telegraphy licence granted in accordance with WT Act, or by making its use licence exempt. 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.
- 2.2 Licence exemption supports the development and take up of wireless technologies and reduces the regulatory burden on manufacturers and users, encouraging the introduction of new and innovative products to the market.
- 2.3 Earlier this year, we made proposals to enable access to the Upper 6 GHz band for licence exempt Wi-Fi use, as we considered that licence exempt access to more spectrum would support industries to innovate and to meet the anticipated growth in demand for their networks. We considered that this would improve wireless connectivity for businesses and consumers, along with enabling new and different types of communications services.
- 2.4 Our July 2026 [statement](#) outlined our decisions on these proposals. Alongside our statement we also published the proposed Amending Regulations and a proposed updated IR 2030 to reflect those decisions, together with a notice setting out our intention to make the Amending Regulations in accordance with the legislative requirements.¹ We asked stakeholders for any comments on, or objections to, our proposals. Having carefully considered responses, this statement sets out and explains our decision to make the Regulations and to update IR 2030.

Comments and representations

- 2.5 We published the [Notice of Proposed Regulations](#) on 20th July 2026. The Notice included a copy of the proposed Amending Regulations and proposed updated IR 2030 and stakeholders had until 7 September 2026 to make any representations.

Stakeholder responses

- 2.6 We received four stakeholder responses to the Notice from:
 - a) Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (DSA);
 - b) Wireless Broadband Alliance (WBA);
 - c) Associazione Italiana Internet Provider (AIIP); and
 - d) IEEE 802LAN/MAN Standards Committee representative (IEEE).
- 2.7 All four stakeholders expressed their support for the Amending Regulations and the updated IR 2030 as drafted. Their responses are summarised below and a copy of each response can be found in full on the Ofcom [website](#).
- 2.8 DSA, WBA and IEEE were all in favour of extending licence exempt access by a further 160 MHz. They said that the additional spectrum would improve capacity and performance and

¹ Section 122(4) to (6) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006

noted the benefits of the additional spectrum for high throughput and latency-sensitive uses. AIIP also welcomed the revised IR 2030, which reflects the extended frequency range.

- 2.9 WBA, DSA and AIIP also welcomed the additional spectrum being made available under the same technical conditions as already applicable for Wi-Fi in the Lower 6 GHz band. They noted that this consistent approach would give regulatory certainty, reduce complexity, ensure spectrum access and support equipment availability and investment. IEEE also expressed its support for including low power indoor and very low power indoor or outdoor use of the additional spectrum.
- 2.10 WBA and AIIP both favoured bringing the regulations into force as soon as possible. DSA commented on the benefits of making the spectrum available soon, rather than leaving it unused.
- 2.11 Stakeholders also commented on our wider approach to the 6 GHz band, including providing their views on future developments. We welcome these comments and note their relevance to our wider work in the 6 GHz band. However, as they concern matters beyond the scope of this consultation, we have not considered them as part of the decision-making process in relation to these Regulations.

Ofcom's response and decision

- 2.12 Having carefully considered stakeholder responses, we have decided to update IR 2030 and to make the Amending Regulations in substantively the same form as the draft regulations published in July 2026. The IR takes effect from 23rd October 2026 and can be found on Ofcom's [website](#). The Amending Regulations come into force on 10th November 2026 and are available on [legislation.gov.uk](#).

Document structure

- 2.13 Section 3 sets out Ofcom's decision to update IR 2030 and to make the Amending Regulations, and next steps.
- 2.14 **Annex 1** contains a final version of the Amending Regulations in the form submitted for registration and publication.
- 2.15 **Annex 2** contains a link to the final version of updated Interface Requirement (IR) 2030 which is published on the [Ofcom website](#).
- 2.16 **Annex 3** contains a copy of the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Amending Regulations.

3. Our decision to make the Regulations and to update IR 2030

Making and publication of the Regulations

- 3.1 This document gives notice that we have made the Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2026 (the “Amending Regulations”) on 27th October 2026 and they will be available on legislation.gov.uk. We have also updated IR 2030.
- 3.2 A copy of the final version of the Amending Regulations is also set out in Annex 1 of this document for indicative purposes, in the form submitted for registration and publication after it was made by Ofcom. However, legislation.gov.uk is the only authorised source for published statutory instruments. A link to the updated IR 2030 is set out in Annex 2. The Regulatory Impact Assessment is also set out in Annex 3 for indicative purposes.

Next steps

- 3.3 The Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2026 will come into force on 10th November 2026.
- 3.4 The updated IR 2030 came into effect on 23rd October 2026.

A1. The Regulations

A1.1 A final version of the Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2026, in the form submitted for registration and publication is set out below.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No. 0000

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2026

Made - - - - 27th October 2026

Coming into force 10th November 2026

The Office of Communications (“OFCOM”) make these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 8(3) and 122(7) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (“the Act”)([\[a\]](#)).

Before making these Regulations OFCOM gave and published notice of their proposal to do so, and considered representations made to them before the time specified in the notice, as required by section 122(4) to (6) of the Act.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2026 and shall come into force on 10th November 2026.

Amendment of the Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) Regulations 2021

2. —(1) The Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) Regulations 2021([\[b\]](#)) are amended as follows.
(2) In regulation 4 (Short range devices) for “in April 2026, is exempt” substitute “in October 2026, is exempt”.

Signatory text

David Willis

Group Director, Spectrum Group

27th October 2026

For and on behalf of the Office of Communications

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Wireless Telegraphy (Exemption) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 2021/493) (“the 2021 Regulations”). The 2021 Regulations exempt the establishment, installation and use of wireless telegraphy stations or apparatus which comply with certain terms, provisions and limitations, from the requirement to be licensed under section 8(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (c.36)).

Regulation 2(3) amends the 2021 Regulations to change the publication date of technical interface requirement document IR 2030, published by OFCOM which relates to short range devices.

The interface requirement document is published by OFCOM and is available from OFCOM’s website at <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/siteassets/resources/documents/spectrum/interface-requirements/ir-2030.pdf?v=426935>. Hard copies of the document can be obtained by writing to OFCOM at Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA.

A full regulatory impact assessment of the effect of these Regulations is available to the public from OFCOM’s website at www.ofcom.org.uk. Hard copies of the document can be obtained by writing to OFCOM at Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA. Copies of the assessment have also been placed in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

- ([a]) 2006 c. 36. Section 8(3) and section 122(7) were extended to the Bailiwick of Guernsey by article 2 of the Wireless Telegraphy (Guernsey) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/3325); to the Bailiwick of Jersey by article 2 of the Wireless Telegraphy (Jersey) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/3324); and to the Isle of Man by article 2 of the Wireless Telegraphy (Isle of Man) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/278).
- ([b]) S.I. 2021/493 as amended by S.I. 2021/948, S.I. 2023/243, and S.I. 2026/396

A2. Final updated interface requirements

- A2.1 The final updated version of Interface Requirement (IR) 2030 is published on the [Ofcom website](#).

A3. Impact assessments

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 reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex 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 decisions 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 decision 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 or impact on equality of opportunity or good relations.
- 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 2003 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 decision 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 In our previous consultations we carefully considered whether our decision would have a particular impact on persons sharing protected characteristics, and in particular whether they may discriminate against such persons or impact on equality of opportunity or good relations. We have also had regard to the matters in section 3(4) of the Communications Act 2003.

- A3.9 We have not carried out separate equality impact assessments in relation to the additional equality groups in Northern Ireland: religious belief, political opinion and dependents. This is because we anticipate that our decision on updating the licence exemption regulations and IR 2030 would not have a differential impact in Northern Ireland compared to consumers in general.

Welsh language

- A3.10 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).
- A3.11 In our previous statements we did not consider that our decision would have any impact on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. We also did not think there are ways in which our decision on updating the licence exemption regulations and IR 2030 could be formulated so as to have, or increase, a positive impact, or not have adverse effects or decrease any adverse effects. This is because our decision related to spectrum across the UK.

The overview section in this document is a simplified high-level summary only. The decisions we have taken and our reasoning are set out in the full document.