Title:

Mr

Forename:

Malcolm

Surname:

Bell

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:

No

If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:

Ofcom may publish a response summary:

Yes

I confirm that I have read the declaration:

Yes

Additional comments:

Question 1: Do you agree that it is likely that the benefits to UK consumers and citizens will be greater from the MoD?s release of spectrum in the 2.3 GHz and 3.4 GHz release bands than from retaining the current amateur use?:

Should this spectrum be re-assigned to carry services of mass appeal, such as mobile phone services then undoubtedly the benefit will be felt most keenly by UK consumers & citizens, as the population of users will far exceed the number of licensed radio amateurs in the UK.

Question 2: Are there current uses in the release bands other than those detailed in RSGB?s band plan and discussed in Section 3 of this consultation?:

I have no information with which to answer this question.

Question 3: Are there further consequences of removing the release bands from amateur licences that have not been considered in our analysis?:

No

Question 4: There is an option (although not preferred) to remove access to the adjacent bands, as well as to the release bands. What are the consequences of removing access to the adjacent bands from amateur licences?:

Amateur radio has long bneen regarded as a route to technical, engineering, design, manufacturing and
other careers beneficial to this country's economy. Removal of the adjacent bands (where the ability to access these bands is quite straightforward) will discourage future radio amateurs. It may also represent a financial loss to those amateurs who have invested in equipment
which is unlikely to be adaptable to other bands.

Question 5: Are there current uses in the adjacent bands other than those detailed in the RSGB?s band plan and discussed in Section 3?:

Some research into long-distance propagation mechanisms is carried out in these adjacent bands.

Question 6: Are there additional mitigation measures which would provide demonstrable proof that amateurs would not cause interference into LTE in the release bands following the release?:

By its very nature the use of amateur radio equipment in these bands is undertaken by people with a great deal of insight into the good design and operation of radio equipment. The self-training nature of amateur radio encourages each operator to be aware of in-band and out-of-band spurious emissions and I am confident there will be a mature response to any allegations of interference. A simple and straight-forward monitoring and reporting process should be developed so that an individual operator can address any interference issues should they be detected.

Question 7: Do you agree with the proposed process for varying licences following cases of reported interference and our proposal to vary licences should dealing with the number of reported cases become too onerous?:

No, I believe this would be counter-productive and would not serve anybody's best interests. Such a wide-sweeping arrangement may affect 'law abiding' amateurs as well as those whose transmissions MAY be the source of interference. Dealing with appeals from such a process will no doubt be more time-consuming than a more constructive process of reporting and advising radio amatuers of potential interference issues.

Question 8: Do you agree with our preferred option?:

Yes. Withdrawal of the spectrum would, however, affect international use of the adjacent bands by
UK Radio Amateurs. That part of the proposal seems heavy-handed and unnecessary, given that
there is no experience, yet, of the operation of "Future Wireless Broadband" in the release bands.

Question 9: Are there additional changes to the Amateur Radio Licence which would assist amateur in lowering the risk of causing harmful interference to new uses?:

A Radio Amateur is already required to suspend operations if causing interference under licence
condition 5(1)(b). Real operational experience of the operation of "Future Wireless Broadband"
may enable a more practical answer to the question.