Emergency Services Scotland - representative of Police Service of Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Ambulance Service

Additional comments:

This submission of interest in the spirit of Questions 7 and 11 within the OfCom 'Call for Inputs on the Future Use of the 700MHz Band' document is made collectively by the Emergency Services in Scotland, namely, The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, The Police Service of Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service, for the purposes of this submission, to be known as the Emergency Services, Scotland, (ESS)

The ESS are working within the framework of the UK, Home Office led, Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme, (ESMCP) and the Scottish Future Communications Programme (SFCP).

The aim of both programmes is to provide future voice and data platforms for the emergency services in respective areas of jurisdiction. A future decision will be made by the SFCP in partnership with the ESS as to whether a separate solution(s) will be chosen for the ESS.

The guidance the ESS has received from colleagues who provide support for devolved Spectrum issues in Scotland is that possible dedicated reservation of spectrum for Public Protection and Disaster Relief, (PPDR) is an attractive prospect.

At a time when solutions for future PPDR/ES usage has yet to be decided upon in the UK and Scotland, the ESS wish to note a positive interest in the reservation of dedicated Spectrum in the 700Mhz Bandwith for PPDR usage

Question 1: Have we correctly identified and characterised the potential costs set out above, and what other costs ? if any ? should be taken into account in our assessment?:

Question 2: What evidence, whether qualitative or quantitative, should we obtain and/or take into account in assessing each of these potential costs? Please identify any sources of specific evidence to which we should have regard.:

Question 3: Have we correctly identified and characterised the potential benefits set out above, and what other benefits ? if any ? should be taken into account in our assessment? :

Question 4: What evidence, whether qualitative or quantitative, should we obtain and/or take into account in assessing each of these potential benefits? Please identify any sources of specific evidence to which we should have regard. :

Question 5: In particular, what is your view of the likely future demand for additional sub 1 GHz spectrum for the provision of mobile data services, and what evidence supports this view?:

Question 6: Should we place different weights on some costs and benefits than on others, for example depending on whether costs would be borne by consumers, DTT operators, or mobile operators? :

Question 7: Do you have any other comments on the work we are currently undertaking on potential costs and benefits? :

Question 8: Have we correctly identified the costs and benefits that could vary depending on the timing of release, and the impact of those factors? Are there other costs and benefits which would vary depending on the timing of release of the 700 MHz band which we should take into account?:

Question 9: How quickly could the 700 MHz band be released? What would be the impact on DTT infrastructure costs of releasing at the earliest possible time compared to a later time? What would be the factors which affect these costs?:

Question 10: How, and to what extent, are the costs for existing (PMSE) and potential (WSD) interleaved users of the 700 MHz band likely to vary depending on the timing of release? What would be the factors which affect these costs?:

Question 11: Should we consider any other cost-related arguments / evidence in favour of an earlier or later release date?:

Question 12: What would be the impact on mobile broadband delivery and competition of releasing the 700 MHz band later rather than sooner? :

Question 13: Should we consider any other benefit-related arguments / evidence in favour of an earlier or later release date?:

Question 14: Is the range of potential dates for release likely to be wide enough to merit consideration of an incentive auction approach?:

Question 15: If so, what are the challenges to designing an effective incentive auction in this case, and how might these challenges be addressed? :

Question 16: If we followed an incentive auction approach, how should we take account of wider costs and benefits ? i.e. those not felt by participants in the auction?:

Question 17: Do you have any views at this stage as to the parameters of an incentive auction, such as the default date and payment mechanism?:

Question 18: Is there a version of the overlay auction approach which could be suitable for 700 MHz release?:

Question 19: What are the benefits and risks of conducting an overlay auction in this case?:

Question 20: Have we correctly identified and characterised the potential impact of 700 MHz release on consumers accessing DTT? What other impact ? if any ? should be taken into account in order to identify pre-emptive measures to reduce this impact?:

Question 21: Do you have any comments on the pre-emptive measures relevant to DTT identified above? Are there other pre-emptive measures we should be considering?:

Question 22: Have we identified the correct measures to support consumer adoption of DVB-T2?:

Question 23: What regard, if any, should we have to wider technical evolution of the DTT platform, such as HEVC? :

Question 24: Have we correctly identified and characterised the potential impact of 700 MHz release on PMSE users? What other impact ? if any ? should be taken into account in order to identify pre-emptive measures to mitigate this impact?:

Question 25: Do you have any comments on the pre-emptive measures identified above? Are there other pre-emptive measures we should be considering?:

Question 26: Do you have suggestions for how we can assess the impact on PMSE users and equipment if 700 MHz is no longer available for PMSE use?: