

Ofcom's Draft Annual Plan 2011/12 - Arqiva response

2nd proposed strategic purpose

Arqiva supports the promotion of the efficient use of public assets (including spectrum).

Arqiva agrees that, for spectrum, success would include:

- More spectrum available for new services
- New wireless services launching
- More efficient and dynamic processes for trading spectrum.

Arqiva strongly supports swift progress towards the award of licences for 800 MHz, 2.6 GHz and 600 MHz spectrum and also supports Ofcom continuing to work with the CAA and the MOD to minimise interference from S-Band radars into 2.6 GHz spectrum.

We would also urge Ofcom to encourage the CAA and the MOD to work towards maximising efficient use of S-Band by their radars with the aim of eventually releasing to the market cleared, contiguous spectrum.

Arqiva also supports the medium-term spectrum policy work programme, as part of which we believe that Ofcom should encourage the emergence of a vibrant secondary market (both sales and leasing) of spectrum so that there would be less perceived need for Ofcom to attempt to use the primary spectrum market as a tool of the longer-term planning and direct management envisaged in the Annual Plan.

Services to stakeholders - Keeping the radio spectrum free from interference

Arqiva supports Ofcom continuing to monitor the radio spectrum and taking appropriate action to prevent harmful spectrum interference. In this Arqiva wishes to emphasise the importance of the work being undertaken with regard to LTE (4G) interference into broadcast services and the need for Ofcom to ensure a robust protection environment for DTT (DVB-T) services.