



**Chairman – Roger Jenkins**  
***The Stables, 6 Back O' The Town Lane, Ince Blundell***  
***Merseyside L38 6JJ - UK***

tel: + 44 [0] 151 929 3311 (day) fax: + 44 [0] 151 331 0213 mobile: + 44 7703 476 524  
E-Mail: <roger.jenkins@talktalk.net> <www.theenglisharchitect.com>

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010

OFCOM

Dear Sir,

I write with regard to the proposal to introduce charges for airfield radio frequencies ("VHF COM").

I represent a small but enthusiastic Flying Club, situated just north of Liverpool, and just south of RAF Woodvale, an operational MOD air base.

We are all amateur microlight fliers, who operate alongside a successful microlight training school.

A few years ago we decided to apply for, and now operate, an air-ground radio frequency. We took the view that this would be a considerable advantage in terms of air safety; with the increase in the number of, and the sophistication and variety of new microlights, we now look back and agree that it was an excellent decision, particularly on busy flying days.

Also, given our location near to a busy national airport and an operating RAF station, having our own radio frequency can only be seen as common sense.

However, if the proposal to levy the charges comes into force, then we shall have no alternative but to rescind our radio frequency; we simply could not pass the level of charges on to our members – which we see also as the thin end of the wedge, as I am sure it will open the door to further annual increases.

Microlight flying, like most sports these days, is operated on a very tight budget; made even more so by the continuing increase in fuel costs. We have a very low annual subscription for our members, which would initially have to almost double. With possible further increases in the future, we could not possibly sustain this and the frequency would have to go.

With your "common sense hat" on, I am sure that you would view this as a retrograde step in terms of air safety, and I urge you to reconsider charging for this essential item.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Jenkins  
Chairman

