

Cover sheet for response to an Ofcom consultation

BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title: Applying spectrum pricing to the maritime sector, and new arrangements for the management of spectrum used for radar and aeronautical navigation aids

To (Ofcom contact):

Name of respondent: Nigel Hitchman

Representing (self or organisation/s): self

Address (if not received by email):

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

Nothing

☒

Name/contact details/job title

☐

Whole response

☐

Organisation

☐

Part of the response

☐

If there is no separate annex, which parts?

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

DECLARATION

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☐

Name

Signed (if hard copy)

As I have responded before, there is no logic or justification for applying any pricing to the aeronautical sector for navigation aids or Radar or Communication frequencies. I am sure this is the same in the maritime world. These are managed by international agreement and there is a robust system to allocate frequencies and for their use. Allocation is based on a safety and need case and seems to work well.

Applying pricing to this would just distort things and mean that safety is compromised. It would allow rich people/companies to obtain frequencies for their own personal convenience in preference to small airfields who only need a frequency for safety reasons and who cannot afford to pay for it. This would mean many small airfields would have to operate with no radio, or just using a combined frequency with other places, suffering from interference, just so some fat cat can have their own frequency and OFCOM make money from it.

The current arrangements for aeronautical frequencies have already been explained to OFCOM by many people in the response to the previous consultation and OFCOM have been told why pricing is totally inappropriate, but this seems to have been forgotten in this consultation. It would seem that whoever put this document together has forgotten the lessons learned and is just trying to go ahead with the Money rules everything approach, that while it may be appropriate to other commercial uses of frequencies is totally inappropriate to the maritime and aviation sectors.

I would suggest that in order to save taxpayers money, OFCOM need to forget once and for all charging in the aviation and marine sector, rather than going round and round in circles trying to get your views through, save our money and move on to something more appropriate.

Thank you

Nigel Hitchman