



Alan Reid MP, Argyll & Bute

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Mr Michael Richardson
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

Dear Mr Richardson

Response to Consultation entitled “Applying spectrum pricing to the Maritime and Aeronautical sectors”

I am concerned that the annual charge to charities for the use of radio frequencies would increase substantially if some of the options in the consultation document were to be implemented.

For example, the annual charge to the Royal National Lifeboat (RNLI) for use of radio frequencies could increase from £40,000 to £130,000, even if the current 50% discount were retained.

The RNLI is a national charity, supported and financed by volunteers, which provides a vital life-saving service. The RNLI and other life saving charities should not be forced to raise yet more money to pay for the essential use of radio frequencies.

If the proposed increases were implemented, they would threaten sea and mountain search and rescue charities across the country.

I believe that all charities whose objective is “the safety of human life” should receive a full 100 per cent discount on using radio frequencies and I hope that Ofcom will introduce such a scheme following this consultation

Yours sincerely

Alan Reid MP

Whilst Alan Reid MP will treat as confidential any personal information which you pass on, he will allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. The MP may pass all or some of the information to agencies, such as DSS, Inland Revenue or Local Council if this is necessary to help with your case. We may wish to write to you, from time to time, to keep you informed on issues that you might find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

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