



British Cave Rescue Council

The representative body for voluntary underground rescue in the British Isles

2 Monksdale Close, Tideswell, Derbyshire SK17 8JG

Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
LONDON
SE1 9HA

For the attention of Mr Michael Richardson

27 October 2008

Dear Mr Richardson,

APPLYING SPECTRUM PRICING TO THE MARITIME AND AERONAUTICAL SECTORS

I am writing with regard to the Ofcom consultation as titled above.

The British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC) is the national representative body for the fifteen volunteer search and rescue teams that carry out underground search and rescue work in caves and disused mines throughout the United Kingdom.

The Council is a member of the United Kingdom Search and Rescue Operators Group.

All teams represented by the BCRC are charities who obtain their funding from donations and the fund raising efforts of their unpaid volunteers.

Support for the service from the public purse is minimal and restricted only to a very few areas. One of the most important of these is the provision by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) of the frequencies maintained for inland search and rescue purposes.

Bluntly, without this support teams would not have, and would not be able to afford, the good radio communications that are essential for the efficient and safe running of their search and rescue operations.

Any possibility that increases in licence fees might force the MCA to review their support or that detrimental changes in current frequencies might be forced upon teams is viewed with extreme concern.

Team members give their time and expertise to carry out specialist search and rescue work on behalf of the statutory authorities free of any charge. More than that, they absorb the considerable personal costs of participating without seeking or expecting re-imbursement and also they have to spend

much time and effort to raise the money needed to maintain their teams and provide their essential specialist equipment.

In return they ask to be treated sympathetically by the government whose citizens they search for and rescue they and hope that such sympathy would extend to maintaining or improving the available radio frequencies whilst not increasing the cost.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R H Whitehouse', written in a cursive style.

R H Whitehouse
Chairman