

Ofcom

- 1 OCT 2008

Chief Executive's Office

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19th September
2008

Mrs. Ed Richards,
Chief Executive
Office of Communications,
20 Southwark Bridge Road,
London, SE1 9HA.

Dear Sir,

LICENCE FEES FOR USING
MARITIME RADIO FREQUENCIES

I was horrified to read that there are moves to charge the RNLI in respect of the above-mentioned matter. This is a shameful recommendation.

I remind you that the RNLI is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, and receives no public funding for running the lifeboat services around the British Isles. For the RNLI to pay a substantial sum for the use of maritime radio frequencies would be unfair and unjustified. I am amazed that Ofcom's review has resulted in this recommendation.

I have been fund-raising for the RNLI for some 30 years. Volunteers and supporters recognise the inestimable value of the RNLI. Funds are needed to save lives at sea, and to impose the suggested charge would be an insensitive

and outrageous step. It would be the
like the imposition of a penalty for
carrying out the best of intentions. The
RNLI is a charity which deserves the
widest support and encouragement.
Cofcom's recommendation is a step in the
wrong direction, to say the least.

No doubt you will receive a
number of representations in response
to Cofcom's recommendation. I urge you
to listen to these genuine concerns. The
RNLI should not be charged licence
fees.

Yours faithfully,
C.A. Fonteyn.

(Mr. CHRISTOPHER A. FONTEYN)