

PATRON:
THE LADY FIELDHOUSE

JOINT PRESIDENTS:
The Worshipful The Mayor of Gosport
The Worshipful The Mayor of Fareham



Mr Ian Sweet Vice Chairman (Strategic)

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28th October 2008

Dear Sir / Madame,

Further to our response to your consultation and your statement issued on your website, we would like to add the following observations

? The RNLI may **see its charges fall** as a result of our proposal to offer a single, lower cost licence for multiple users.

? Ofcom is making no proposals to impose charges on Mountain Rescue teams for radio spectrum.

The RNLI and Other Independent Lifeboat services provide the same level of service, and perform Search and Rescue Missions in a similar manner to the Mountain Rescue Teams, to charge on set of users involved in Safety of Life but not another set is putting a financial disadvantage to one set of rescuers, and creating a two tier system for saving of life.

Most radio channels used by search and rescue teams are assigned to, and paid for by, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) which is an executive agency of the Department for Transport funded by general taxation. The fees which the MCA pays for these channels already reflect the value of the spectrum (rather than just the administrative cost of processing licences). So there is unlikely to be any significant increase, if any, in what the MCA pays for these search and rescue channels.

We are aware that there are a number of channels allocated for search and rescue and as an organisation we have applied for the use of these channels which are within the marine band, this has been turned down by the SAR Working group, we would encourage OFCOM to reconsider the SAR Working groups restrictions on the use of these channels for Land Search and Rescue and make them available to the wider Search and Rescue Community with no charges being applied.

Whilst there are congestion issue's using these channels in the north of the UK due to land SAR, there is little congestion in southern england due to limited land SAR, but high commercial pressures on UK Marine band allocations, by allowing increased use of the SAR Frequencies this would put all SAR Communications within one set of frequencies, on one national band plan and greater cooperation, Uk Resilience and coordination between land and SAR Assesst would increase during times of Major Incident, Natural Disaster, Terrorist Attack and Multiple Agency Response.

Regards

Ian Sweet

Independent Lifeboat - Registered Charity No. 265304

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