

## **ICAO Response**

ICAO, is the specialized agency of the United Nations for civil aviation matters. Main principles and objectives of ICAO are set forth in the Chicago Convention. In accordance with Article 37 of the Convention ICAO develops Standards and Recommended Practices SARPS for the purpose of ensuring the safety and regularity of air navigation.

The UK is a signatory of the Chicago Convention and has an obligation to provide safe air traffic management in UK airspace for international air traffic in accordance with Article 28 of the Convention.

ICAO is concerned that Ofcom appears to be ignoring safety aspects in its consultation on AIP and also states repeatedly that international obligations are “constraints”. (e.g. - “International obligations tend to limit the autonomy of the UK government” ;para 3.33 in the consultation document refers).

This consultation assumes that charging AIP on aeronautical spectrum will increase the efficient use of such spectrum. However, the consultation appears not to take into account the essential international obligations in particular those related to safety and regularity of flight.

Aviation by its very nature is a safety of life service and needs access to its frequency resources at all times, not only in times of emergency or distress. Aeronautical services are recognised internationally to be a prime user of radio frequencies without which aircraft operations would not be capable of meeting the global demand for safe, efficient and cost-effective air transport.

Allocations to aeronautical services are made on global basis. This enables international standardization of equipment and systems and facilitates both safety and global interoperability of operations.

International obligations do not limit the autonomy of the UK government but ensure that UK airlines can operate safely in the entire world and that international airlines can fly in UK airspace.

Furthermore a full impact assessment including safety issues and international obligations is essential before making decisions that could impact on the safe operations of international civil aviation.