

**Question 1: How should Ofcom manage the process of taking advice from users, regulators and government on efficient apportionment of AIP fees in the maritime and aeronautical sectors? Are any new institutional arrangements needed?:**

Unsure of overall framework

**Question 2: If you consider that our proposals for pricing ground station users for any spectrum would be likely to have a detrimental impact on safety, please let us know. In order for us to understand your assessment fully, it would be helpful if you could outline the mechanisms whereby this might happen.?:**

From a voluntary body perspective anything which may increase our costs is to be avoided. If we are to pay more we may need to reduce the number of channels thereby potentially impacting on safety by not having a large enough geographical distance between users. At present mountain rescue teams in widely separate areas use the same frequency in the knowledge that they are too far apart to interfere with each other. If we were forced to rationalise our frequencies we could cause safety difficulties.

**Question 3: Do you have any evidence which indicates that AIP charged to ground stations could have a material detrimental impact on UK competitiveness?:**

not qualified to answer.

**Question 4: Taking into account the information available in this document, including that set out in Annex 5, our initial views on VHF radiocommunications licence fees and on the reference rates for bands in other uses, and any information you have about the organisations to whom we are proposing to charge fees, please provide any evidence that you think is relevant to us in considering the financial impact of the fees we intend to propose for VHF radiocommunications, or for other uses:**

There should be no change to frequency costs for affiliated mountain rescue teams, this service saves the tax payer millions of pounds per year in the UK. In our area in Central Scotland (Ochils MRT -only 1 team out of 26 in Scotland and not the busiest by far) the monetary value of our voluntary service is calculated to equate to over £250,000. therefore any increase in our costs would not be viewed positively.

**Question 5: Do you agree that there is little to be gained, in terms of economic efficiency, from charging AIP to WT Act licences for aircraft:**

not qualified to answer.

**Question 6: Do you consider that we should discount fees for any particular user or type of user? Specifically, do you consider that there should be a discount for charities whose object is the safety of human life in an emergency:**

I would support the position of discounting any bona fide charity who are involved in Search and Rescue.

**Question 7: Do you agree that Ofcom should apply AIP to ground stations? use of maritime and aeronautical VHF radiocommunications channels, to help manage growing congestion in current use and to ensure that the cost of denying access to this spectrum by potential alternative applications is faced by current users?:**

not qualified to answer

**Question 8: Do you agree with our initial view that it would be appropriate to apply a pricing system similar to that already existing for Business Radio licences to maritime and aeronautical VHF communications? If not, what are your reasons for proposing that we should develop a fee structure for maritime and aeronautical VHF channels which is distinct from that already established for Business Radio?:**

see above

**Question 9: Are there any short term reasons specific to the sector(s) why it would be inappropriate to apply fees from April 2009?:**

see above

**Question 10: Ofcom would welcome stakeholders' views on the factors which should be taken into account when apportioning fees between individual users of radars and racons:**

N/a

**Question 11: Do you agree with our initial view that a reference rate of £126k per 1 MHz of national spectrum for L band and S band radar spectrum would achieve an appropriate balance between providing incentives to ensure efficient use of spectrum while guarding against the risks of regulatory failure in setting the reference rate too high? If you consider a different rate would be more appropriate, please provide any evidence that you think we should take into account.:**

not qualified to answer

**Question 12: Do you agree with our initial view that a reference rate of £25k per single MHz of national spectrum would be appropriate for deriving fees for licences to use X band radar?:**

see 11

**Question 13: Do you agree that, generally, spectrum used by aeronautical radionavigation aids is currently uncongested? Do you believe that this may change during the next few years and, if so, approximately when?:**

unsure

**Question 14: Do you agree with the basis on which Ofcom has arrived at its initial view on reference rates for aeronautical radionavigation aids?:**

not qualified to answer

**Comments:**