

**Question 1: This executive summary sets out our proposals for the Digital Dividend Cleared Award. Do you agree with these proposals?:**

The consultation document takes the approach to "maximise the total value to society", which is clearly a worthwhile and logical objective. However, it appears that the resulting judgement is dominated by financial metrics such as generated total business revenue. We argue that "value to society" is a much wider concept than just revenue or profit. This is particularly the case when looking at the provision of public safety services, where outcomes should not be determined by pure market forces. We believe that the evaluation of "value" should take account of wider benefits to society as a whole, including benefits to national resilience and security affecting all UK citizens.

We do not consider it fair or reasonable that essential and necessary government functions should compete in spectrum auctions against commercial businesses without any safeguards, as this could jeopardize the efficiency of future public safety services to citizens. Spectrum planning for public safety services should be treated as a long-term strategic issue of national significance and should not be left to the mercy of short-term market forces.

**Question 2: Do you agree with our proposal to include the interleaved spectrum in channels 61 and 62 in the cleared award?:**

**Question 3: Do you agree with our proposal not to allow licence-exempt use of channels 61 and 62 by cognitive devices?:**

**Question 4: Do you have any comments on our assessment of the most likely uses of the cleared spectrum and the amount of spectrum required for these services? Are there any other potential uses that we should consider?:**

We are aware of planning being done e.g. by NPIA to identify solutions to follow on from when the current contract for the National Public Safety Radio Service expires. There are major concerns about the availability of spectrum for replacement broadband (let alone wideband) services from around year 2015, which will be required for the Police Service and other Public Safety Services. The rapid introduction of sensor-derived data, including video and biometrics, is already leading to greatly increased data-intensive field communications, which, in turn, require more bandwidth than is currently available. Many expert observers would argue that the current narrowband frequency allocation below 400 MHz for the Airwave Service is already a limiting factor to exploiting operational information.

For these reasons, we believe that it is essential to recognise the Emergency Services as a legitimate beneficiary in planning the future use of spectrum in the range below 1 GHz, a subject which falls very much within the scope of this consultation.

We support strongly the recommendations of the Industry Committee (ITRE) of the European Parliament (in their recent report entitled "Reaping the full benefits of Digital Dividend in Europe").

Clauses 26 and 48 from this report read:

"26. Confirms the societal value of public safety services and the need to include support for their operational requirements into the spectrum arrangements arising from the reorganisation of the UHF band resulting from the switch-off of analogue services;"

"48. Considers that the part of the harmonised spectrum at Community level dedicated to emergency services should be able to provide access to future broadband technologies for the retrieval and transmission of information needed for the protection of human life via more efficient response on the part of the emergency services;"

**Question 5: Do you agree that we should proceed with our current timetable, with a view to holding the cleared award in summer 2009?:**

**Question 6: Do you have any views on the appropriate notice period for temporary PMSE access to channels 63-68, and/or on whether or not extend temporary access to channels 31-40?:**

NPIA

**Question 7: What are your views on deferring the start date for rights to use cleared spectrum in London to help meet the need for wireless microphones and other audio links for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games?:**

**Question 8: Do you agree with the use of SURs as the approach for defining consistent TLCs for this award?:**

**Question 9: Do you have any comments on the SUR parameters listed in Tables 5.1 to 5.5 and the assumptions used to derive them?:**

**Question 10: Do you agree with our proposals for managing interference between new services in the DDR cleared spectrum?:**

**Question 11: Do you agree that the most efficient and effective means of preventing interference to the existing DTT services is by the addition of a protection clause to licences in the cleared spectrum? If not, what alternative approach would you suggest?:**

**Question 12: Do you agree that the best way to finalise the protection clause approach and to address the practical implementation issues is through direct engagement with interested stakeholders? With which stakeholders should we engage?:**

**Question 13: What do you believe would be the implications of protecting indoor/set-top antennas? Should a distinction be drawn between set-top antennas and larger antennas designed for external reception of TV signals that are loft-mounted?:**

**Question 14: Do you agree with our proposals for managing interference between new and existing users?:**

**Question 15: Do you agree with the proposed propagation models and databases to be used for compliance assessment?:**

**Question 16: Do you have any comments on the transmit masks set out in paras 5.128 to 5.130?:**

**Question 17: Do you agree that where the cleared spectrum is used for the operation of a DTT multiplex, we should replicate the ownership restrictions from the Broadcasting Act regime relating to (a) local authorities, (b) political bodies, (c) religious bodies and (d) bodies exerting undue influence but not replicate restrictions relating to (e) broadcasting bodies and (f) advertising agencies?:**

**Question 18: Do you agree that we should facilitate interoperability between existing DTT multiplex operators and new operators using cleared spectrum?:**

**Question 19: We welcome views on the relative merits of such an approach to information provision, in particular concerning the type of information that may be helpful and any impacts that publication of information might have both on licence holders and the wider spectrum market.:**

**Question 20: Do you agree that the cleared award should include both 8 MHz lots for DVB-T and MMS TLCs and 5 MHz lots for FDD and TDD TLCs across the band?:**

**Question 21: Do you agree that the cleared award requires a mixture of frequency-specific and frequency-generic lots to be offered in the auction?:**

**Question 22: Do you agree with the proposed outline definition of lots suitable for MMS, DVB-T, TDD and FDD applications?:**

**Question 23: Should the flexibility to bid for lots defined on both fixed and variable-frequency rasters be preserved in the auction? If not, which are preferred?:**

**Question 24: Do you agree with the proposed basis for awarding Channel 38 as a distinct lot in the auction?:**

**Question 25: Do you agree with the proposed structure of frequency rules for allocating different licence types in the auction? Are there any amendments that would improve the efficiency of spectrum allocation via an auction?:**

**Question 26: Do you agree with our proposal to proceed on the basis of UK-wide lots?:**

**Question 27: Do you favour including the available cleared spectrum in (a) Guernsey and (b) Jersey in the geographic coverage of the licences to be awarded? If not, what approach do you favour instead?:**

**Question 28: Do you agree that the combinatorial clock auction is the most suitable auction design for the cleared DDR award?:**

**Question 29: What potential simplifications, if any, could be made to the proposed lot structure for DVB-T, MMS, TDD and FDD lot categories which would still reflect the most important differences in value between lots?:**

**Question 30: Do you have any comments on our proposals for the Application and Qualification Stages of the combinatorial clock auction for the cleared DDR award, including our proposals for initial deposits?:**

**Question 31: Do you consider that it is important to distinguish relative weightings in advance between the eligibility points of the different 1 MHz blocks available in this award? If so should this be restricted to channels 36, 38, 61 and 62 and what do you consider these relative weightings should be?:**

**Question 32: Do you have any views on whether an ex ante eligibility points activity rule or a revealed preference activity rule should be used in this award?:**

**Question 33: Do you have any views on whether there should be restrictions on bidders' ability to bid on multiple technical licence types within single package bids or between different rounds of the auction and whether bidder association rules should potentially be adjusted to cater for any such restrictions being imposed?:**

**Question 34: Do you have any further comments on any aspect of our proposals for the Principal Stage of the combinatorial clock auction for the cleared DDR award?:**

**Question 35: Do you have any comments on any aspect of our proposals for the Assignment Stage or the Grant Stage of the combinatorial clock auction for the cleared DDR award?:**

**Question 36: Do you agree with our approach to assessing whether the award of cleared spectrum fully promotes competition and efficiency? :**

**Question 37: Do you have particular concerns about possibilities for award outcomes to fail to fully promote competition in downstream markets or to result in inefficient use of spectrum? If so, please explain what these are and provide supporting evidence.:**

**Question 38: Do you agree with our view that we should introduce a general safeguard cap aimed at promoting diversity of spectrum holdings? Do you have views concerning the level of such a cap?:**

**Question 39: Do you agree with our proposals to include an information provision licence condition to help facilitate efficient secondary trading?:**

**Question 40: Do you agree with our view that we should not apply any other general remedies in the cleared award?:**

**Question 41: Do you agree with our identification of the three areas requiring further attention?:**

**Question 42: Do you agree with our assessment that the limitations on the amount of cleared spectrum available for mobile broadband applications, and the particular advantages of sub 1GHz spectrum, could result in an outcome where there are limits on the level of competition possible in the provision of these services?:**

**Question 43: Do you think that a soft spectrum cap on either (a) the cleared spectrum suitable for mobile broadband applications alone, or (b) the holding of any sub 1GHz spectrum suitable for mobile broadband applications, which would trigger action if a significant competition concern emerges in relation to the market structure in the future mobile broadband market, could be an appropriate approach to these concerns?:**

**Question 44: Do you agree with our assessment that issues in the pay TV market are not at this stage primarily an issue for the cleared award?:**

**Question 45: Do you agree with our initial assessment that we should not intervene further in the cleared award to remedy any potential impact on competition resulting from the holding of cleared spectrum by NGW/Arqiva?:**

**Comments:**