

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

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on OFCOM's award design addressing the forthcoming DDR cleared spectrum.

We basically agree with OFCOM's proposals set out in the summary and welcome its intention to gather views and opinions on this complex subject.

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

We agree with this proposal.

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

We agree with this proposal.

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?:

Basically, we agree with OFCOM's assessment.

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

We believe that OFCOM's current timetable is a very challenging approach awarding the DDR cleared spectrum. It is also noted that significant cleared spectrum in large UK areas is available not before 2011 or even later.

Furthermore, there are a couple of still reaming open regulatory and technical issues (e.g. ongoing EU Developments, ongoing developments of mobile broadband technologies qualified for DDR cleared spectrum) which makes it difficult to judge OFCOM's proposal completely at this stage.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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

Basically, we welcome a SUR approach.

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?:

We have no specific comment on this question, however since e.g. mobile broadband systems are matter of ongoing developments, the relevant PFD limits needs to be reviewed.

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

As stated earlier, we believe that further investigations are required, since at this stage relevant mobile broadband system characteristics are still under development and technically not enough mature. Additionally, further studies are required whether or not to reduce guard band sizes.

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?:

We propose to address this clause later after interested stakeholders have been engaged in this matter (see Question 12).

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?:

We basically agree with this approach and propose to address mobile industries, i.e. operators and vendors.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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

We agree with OFCOM's approach to include channels which transmit in frequencies adjacent to existing DTT channels. However, a clear framework needs to be established how to proceed in case one actually experience higher interference levels.

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

We have no comment on this question.

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

We strongly recommend to introduce for both, TDD and FDD operations, a single transmit mask.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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

We have no comment on this question.

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.:

We basically agree with such approach, but require to publish at the most aggregated and anonymous information.

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?:

We propose to define 5 MHz and 10 MHz lots.

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?:

We agree with this approach.

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

We have no comment on this question.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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

We agree with this approach.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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

We agree with this approach.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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

We agree with this approach.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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?:

We have no comment on this question at this stage.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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?:

We are in favour with a relaxed revealed preference activity scheme.

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?:

We have no view on this question.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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?:

We have no comment on this question.

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

We agree with OFCOM's approach.

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.:

At this stage, we have no certain view on this question.

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?:

We propose a spectrum cap of approx. 40 MHz.

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

We agree with OFCOM's proposal

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

We have no comment on this question.

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

We have no comment on this question.

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?:

We agree with OFCOM's assessment.

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?:

We basically are in favour with a soft spectrum cap approach; however a clear framework needs to be established defining the soft spectrum cap conditions.

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?:

We have no view on this question.

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?:

We have no view on this subject.

Comments: