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Dear Mr Glover

Which? response to Ofcom's consultation on the award of the 2.3 and 3.4GHz spectrum bands, competition issues, and auction regulations.

Which? welcomes the opportunity to respond to Ofcom's consultation on the award of the 2.3 and 3.4 GHz spectrum bands and the associated competition issues and auction regulations.

We agree with Ofcom's proposal that this spectrum should be made available for use as quickly as possible. The release of this spectrum will provide access to additional network capacity in the mobile sector, and this will be of great benefit to consumers, helping to meet the growing demand for mobile broadband and data services and leading to faster downloads and browsing speeds.

However, the release of this band of spectrum should ensure it does not damage competition in the mobile services market, as this could give rise to consumer detriment. In particular, the auction should be conducted in a way that ensures that the UK retains its four national network providers and that competition between them remains strong, so that consumers can derive the greatest benefits from competition, such as low prices and innovative new products and services.

Which? also believes that it is important that the release of this spectrum is considered holistically as part of UK-wide connectivity strategy to deliver access to broadband and mobile data services across the country, in order to deliver the greatest benefits to consumers.

We welcome the fact that Ofcom's approach is in line with the rest of Europe, where the 3.5GHz band is seen as a likely candidate to support the initial deployment of 5G Mobile services. This will ensure that the same equipment can operate in the UK as in the rest of Europe. This should drive down the price of this equipment, stimulating demand and making 5G services more accessible for consumers.



It is important that Ofcom retains this coordination on spectrum allocation with the rest of Europe going forward, and especially after Britain exits the European Union.

Yours sincerely

Vickie Sheriff
Director of Campaigns and Communications