

RADIO SPECTRUM FOR PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Public Safety Spectrum Policy Group Joint Policy Statement

1. INTRODUCTION

The Public Safety Spectrum Policy Group (PSSPG) is a standing interdepartmental committee on emergency and public safety spectrum matters reporting to the Spectrum Implementation Group. It comprises representatives from Ofcom, government departments and devolved administrations. Other relevant organisations are invited to attend as required.

The PSSPG sets the policy for all spectrum requirements to support Emergency and Public Safety services, as detailed in its *Terms of Reference*. Use of Spectrum for these services is subject to authorisation under the Communications Act 2003 and the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006.

2. ELIGIBLE USERS OF EMERGENCY SERVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SPECTRUM

Access to spectrum for emergency service and public safety services will be strictly controlled and will be limited to those organisations falling within the definitions below.

Emergency Services	Those organisations listed in SI 1989 No 1976 as being permitted to use a blue warning beacon on their vehicles. (an extract of the regulations which lists those organisations is attached at appendix 1)
Public Safety Users	(1) Category 1 Responders as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Civil Contingencies Act. (2) Category 2 Responders as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Civil Contingencies Act.

3. GENERAL ISSUES REGARDING ALL APPLICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SPECTRUM

Applications for access to emergency service and public safety spectrum (annotated UK3 in footnotes to the UK FAT) will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and are subject to spectrum availability and capacity. In the scrutiny of applications, Ofcom will look for confirmation that the proposal:

- Makes efficient use of the spectrum requested
- Adequately addresses co-ordination issues with other users in the band, and other Administrations.
- Contains justification of an operational requirement

In the case of an application for the assignment of additional spectrum for an existing licence or authorisation, evidence will also be required of the technical constraints limiting frequency re-use within the current allocation.

Assignments of spectrum will only take place once a full justification has been made.

4 Frequency co-ordination

Ofcom will maintain a central database of sites for all UK located users and oversee frequency co-ordination between users.

APPENDIX 1

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 1989 NO. 1796

THE ROAD VEHICLES LIGHTING REGULATIONS 1989

Section 3 - Interpretation

A motor vehicle of any of the following descriptions-

- (a) a vehicle used for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
- (b) an ambulance, being a vehicle (other than an invalid carriage) which is constructed or adapted for the purposes of conveying sick, injured or disabled persons and which is used for such purposes;
- (c) a vehicle owned by a body formed primarily for the purposes of fire salvage and used for those or similar purposes;
- (d) a vehicle owned by the Forestry Commission or by a local authority and used from time to time for the purposes of fighting fires;
- (e) a vehicle owned by the Secretary of State for Defence and used-
 - (i) for the purposes of the disposal of bombs or explosives,
 - (ii) by the Naval Emergency Monitoring Organisation for the purposes of a nuclear accident or an incident involving radioactivity,
 - (iii) by the Royal Air Force Mountain Rescue Service for the purposes of rescue operations or any other emergencies, or
 - (iv) by the Royal Air Force Armament Support Unit;
- (f) a vehicle primarily used for the purposes of the Blood Transfusion Service provided under the National Health Service Act 1977 or under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978¹;
- (g) a vehicle used by Her Majesty's Coastguard or Coastguard Auxiliary Service for the purposes of giving aid to persons in danger or vessels in distress on or near the coast;
- (h) a vehicle owned by the British Coal Corporation and used for the purposes of rescue operations at mines;
- (i) a vehicle owned by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and used for the purposes of launching lifeboats; and
- (j) a vehicle primarily used for the purposes of conveying any human tissue for transplanting or similar purposes.