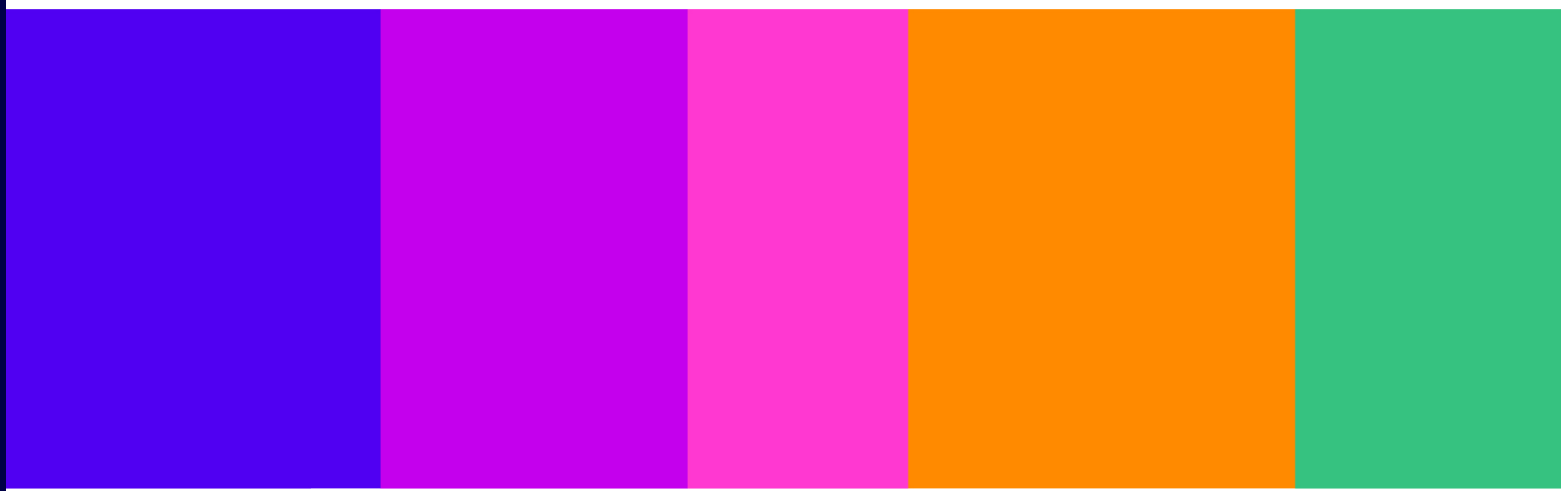


Fixed Wireless Access 5725–5850 MHz

Guidance for licence exempt operation

Guidance

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Overview

This guidance document provides information on changes Ofcom has made to the authorisation of Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) Radio systems operating in the 5725 – 5850 MHz band (5.8 GHz) in the United Kingdom (UK) and the Crown Dependencies of Jersey, Guernsey, and the Isle of Man.

What licensees should be aware of

On 29 April 2026 [regulations](#) came into force that made the operation of FWA equipment in the 5725 – 5850 MHz band exempt from licensing if the operation complies with the technical conditions set out in [IR 2007](#). These provisions include:

- Maximum mean e.i.r.p. of 4W;
- Maximum mean e.i.r.p. density of 23dBm/MHz; and
- The use of Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS) and Transmit Power Control (TPC).

We are contacting all existing licensees to make them aware of this change. Although 5.8 GHz FWA equipment users no longer require a licence to operate, existing licensees will have to either surrender their licence, or continue to hold their licence until it is revoked by Ofcom (which may incur ongoing annual fees).

Background to the licence

5.8 GHz FWA equipment was previously licenced as a ‘Light’ licence. The licence authorised point-to-multipoint equipment for wireless internet service provider (WISP) solutions, broadband internet access, and IP video surveillance in the 5725 – 5850 MHz band, using low power transmissions. With an annual fee of £50, users were also required to register licence terminals on the OPIR Portal at a cost of £1 per terminal.

FWA equipment is operated on a non-interference, non-protected basis according to the technical conditions set out in. This means that the equipment must not cause harmful interference to any other authorised services and that no protection will be given from harmful interference from other authorised services.

Licence exemption

On 27th October 2025 we published a statement [‘Updating the Wireless Telegraphy Licence Exemptions’ \(the “2025 Statement”\)](#). In this statement, we confirmed our decision to update the technical conditions for the use of certain licence exempt equipment and to introduce new rules authorising licence-exempt use of equipment, including for FWA equipment operating in 5725-5850 MHz. We said that operators would still be required to comply with the existing technical conditions set out in [IR 2007](#). We are contacting all current holders of the licence about these changes. This decision followed our consultation [‘Updating Wireless Telegraphy Licence Exemptions’](#) published on 17 January 2025.

Equipment deployed under the previous licence does not need to be changed under this licence exemption and is still authorised to operate.

Any new licence or renewal fees paid for before 29 April 2026 will not be eligible for a refund. Similarly, any renewal fees charged on non-surrendered licences after the exemption comes into force will be non-refundable. Please see the below section for information on how to surrender your licence.

Table 1: Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) in 5.8 GHz technical conditions for licence exempt use

Parameter	Description
Frequency bands	5725–5850 MHz
	Maximum mean e.i.r.p. of 4W
	Maximum mean e.i.r.p. density of 23dBm/MHz*
	* The EIRP spectral density of the transmitter emissions should not exceed the following values for the elevation angle θ (degrees) above the local horizontal plane (of the Earth):
Transmit power/power density	For sectorised (e.g. P-MP Central or Base Station) and Omni-directional deployments: -7 dB(W/MHz) for $0^\circ \leq \theta \leq 15^\circ$
	For P-MP Customer Terminal Station and P-P deployments: -7 dB(W/MHz) for $0^\circ \leq \theta < 32^\circ$ -20 dB(W/MHz) for $32^\circ \leq \theta \leq 50^\circ$ $-10 - (0.2 * \theta) \text{ dB(W/MHz)}$ for $\theta > 50^\circ$
	Examples are provided in ECC Report 68 to demonstrate that these limits can comfortably be achieved using typical antenna radiation pattern envelopes.
Frequency planning assumptions	Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS) and Transmit Power Control (TPC) is assumed to be implemented as specified in ETSI harmonised European standard EN 302 502.

Licence surrender or revocation

Existing FWA licensees will be required to either surrender their licence, or wait for their licence to be revoked. The revocation period is a 5-year period in which licensees may still continue to be charged for their licence, and these fees are non-refundable.

Licence surrender

Current licensees are strongly urged to contact Ofcom and surrender their licence with immediate effect. This will ensure that licensees are no longer liable for future annual payment charges whilst their licence remains in force.

As the licences cannot be surrendered via the Online Licensing Portal, licensees should send a request to the Spectrum Licensing Team via the webform, or call 0300 123 1000 and select option 6 - 'other'.

The licensee will receive a confirmation letter once the licence has been surrendered; this will be either via email or post depending on the preferred contact method on the account.

Licence revocation

If you do not confirm that you wish to surrender your licence, Ofcom will issue a formal revocation notice in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006.

Under Condition 1.2(f) of the General Licence Conditions Booklet, we are required to give licensees 5 years' notice before revocation of your licence can take effect.

During the revocation period, licensees may continue to be charged the annual licence fee, and this will not be refundable. We therefore strongly recommend that licensees surrender their 5.8 GHz FWA licences.

Further assistance

If you require further information concerning these changes, please contact the Spectrum Licensing team either via the Webform, or by calling 0300 123 1000.