



A Guide to: Ofcom's Programme-making and special events: future spectrum access consultation

This Guide to the "Programme-making and special events: future spectrum access" consultation aims to provide our customers with a summary of the main proposals put forward by Ofcom in their document published on 20 June 2007.

The information provided is by no means exhaustive and indicates our understanding of Ofcom's proposals. Every customer of JFMG is likely to be impacted by these proposals. We would therefore recommend that you check Ofcom's full documentation and contribute to the consultation.

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1. Ofcom's previous Digital Dividend proposals

On 19 December 2006 Ofcom published their Digital Dividend Review (DDR) consultation. Visit JFMG's Quick Guide: <http://www.jfm g.com/Docs/Easy%20Guide%20to%20DDRV5.pdf> to see the proposals detailed within it. The consultation closed on 20 March 2007 and generated over 700 responses, many of which were from the PMSE community. Most PMSE respondents felt the proposals put forward did not deal with the issue of continued spectrum access for programme making after Digital Switchover sufficiently.

As a result, Ofcom made a commitment to look more fully into the case for Programme-making and special events and reconsider their original approach.

The colour coded table overleaf shows the channels/frequencies included in the DDR. Each colour represents the original Ofcom proposal listed in the key underneath.

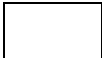


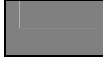

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33 566- 574	34 574- 582	35 582- 590	36 590- 598	37 598- 606	38 606- 614	39 614- 622	40 622- 630	41 630- 638	42 638- 646	43 646- 654	44 654- 662
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45 662- 670	46 670- 678	47 678- 686	48 686- 694	49 694- 702	50 702- 710	51 710- 718	52 718- 726	53 726- 734	54 734- 742	55 742- 750	56 750- 758
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69 854- 862

-  Cleared Spectrum –auctioned in 2008 but cleared of PMSE to DSO timetable
-  To be cleared of PMSE and airport radar use and auctioned at end of 2008
-  Assigned to Digital TV but interleaved use auctioned at end 2008. PMSE use guaranteed until at least 2012
-  Used for PMSE and radio astronomy – no change
-  Channel 69 to become licence exempt

2. Scope of this PMSE consultation

This Ofcom consultation **does not** add any further discussion to the following proposals from the initial DDR document:

- Channel 69 (854-862 MHz)
- Cleared Channels: 31-37 (550-607 MHz), 39-40 (614-630 MHz) & 63-68 (806-854 MHz)
- Channel 36 (590-598 MHz)
- Channel 38 (606-614 MHz)

Ofcom intend to address these issues in their policy statement scheduled in late 2007.

The document **does** focus on:

Interleaved Channels: 21-30 (470-550 MHz) & 41-62 (630-806 MHz) and most specifically on the way PMSE users can access digital interleaved spectrum after digital switchover (DSO). Ofcom are working on the basis that there will be sufficient digital interleaved spectrum for PMSE, although quantities have not yet been finalised. Ofcom put forward 6 options for discussion:

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Status quo	Status quo with AIP	Beauty contest with AIP	Auction with additional safeguards	Auction with DDR safeguards	Auction without safeguards

Each of these options fulfil Ofcom's objectives for PMSE in varying degrees. Ofcom's objectives are: to ensure limited disruption for PMSE users; to help the PMSE industry to participate in spectrum

markets in the future and to promote the optimum use of the spectrum for all users/uses. The options highlighted in green are those Ofcom believe meet these objectives most fully.

In addition to digital interleaved spectrum, Ofcom believe that the preferred option could also be used to manage PMSE spectrum access to other bands after the end of the current JFMG contract in September 2008.

3. Options & Proposals for future access to digital interleaved spectrum

Option 1: status quo

Characteristics:

- Ofcom pays a contractor to issue licences and make assignments on a day-to-day basis
- Digital interleaved spectrum available to PMSE (quantity yet to be determined)
- Short-term licences of up to 1 year, but with no guarantee of access in the future
- Users pay fees which are set by Ofcom to recover the administrative costs
- Contractor passes fees back to Ofcom

Ofcom's assessment: ✘

Option 2: status quo with AIP

Characteristics:

- Ofcom pays a contractor to issue licences and make assignments on a day-to-day basis
- Digital interleaved spectrum available to PMSE (quantity yet to be determined)
- Short-term licences of up to 1 year, but with no guarantee of access in the future
- Users pay Administrative Incentive Pricing (AIP) fees. These reflect the real value of the spectrum so fees are likely to increase (most likely over a phased period)
- Contractor passes fees back to Ofcom

Ofcom's assessment: ✘

Option 3: beauty contest with AIP

Characteristics:

- Ofcom awards digital interleaved licence to a band manager via a beauty contest
- Criteria of the beauty contest would be the following:
 - Interests aligned with PMSE,
 - Capable of participating in the market in the future,
 - Possesses the technical, financial and managerial expertise to manage PMSE spectrum
- Licence would be for an indefinite duration (with a 5 year initial term)
- The band manager would pay AIP to Ofcom
- Users pay commercial fees to band manager
- Licences would be tradable and technology neutral
- Winner would be free to buy additional spectrum

Ofcom's assessment: ✔

Option 4: auction with additional safeguards

Characteristics:

- Ofcom would auction the digital interleaved spectrum
- There may be a pre-qualification process similar to those described in Option 3
- There would be an extended obligation to the winner to ensure access to PMSE until at least 2018 – gives PMSE 10 years to adapt

- Licence duration indefinite (minimum of 18 years)
- Licences would be tradable and technology neutral but with obligations to provide access for PMSE until 2018
- Users pay commercial fees to band manager

Ofcom's assessment: ✓

Option 5: Auction with DDR safeguards

Characteristics:

- Ofcom would auction the digital interleaved spectrum
- There would be an extended obligation to the winner to ensure access to PMSE until at least 2012
- Licence duration indefinite (minimum of 18 years)
- Licences would be tradable and technology neutral but with obligations to provide access for PMSE until 2012
- Users pay commercial fees to band manager

Ofcom's assessment: ✗

Option 6: Auction without safeguards

Characteristics:

- Ofcom would auction the digital interleaved spectrum
- There would be no safeguards for PMSE
- Users pay commercial fees to band manager

Ofcom's assessment: ✗

4. Other PMSE bands

There is also a need to consider the future management arrangements for the bands currently accessed by PMSE outside the UHF spectrum considered in the DDR. They are wide ranging and complex because of the restrictions and spread of them throughout the frequency bands.

Ofcom wants to initiate a discussion via this consultation about the way forward for this remaining spectrum. They are therefore seeking views on how Option 3 and 4 might work for all PMSE spectrum access after September 2008.

5. Timings

What?	When?
Consultation	20 June '07 – 31 August '07
Statement	Late '07
Further consultation on detailed award process	Late '07
Draft regulations consultation	Summer '08
Award process	Late '08/early '09
Licences issued	First half of '09

6. Ofcom's Questions

"Programme-making and special events: future spectrum access" can be found on the Ofcom website at: <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/pmse/>

The consultation questions posed are:

Question 1: Do you agree with our identification and analysis of the options for how the PMSE sector could make use of the digital interleaved spectrum? Which options, if any, do you favour?

*Question 2: Do you agree that we should offer one package of digital interleaved spectrum?
(Not covered in this document)*

*Question 3: Do you believe that greater licence-exempt use could be made of Channel 70 by PMSE?
Are there any obstacles that would need to be overcome first?
(Not covered in this document)*

Question 4: Do you have any comments on the scope for applying the options discussed above to the bands other than the digital interleaved spectrum?

7. How to respond to the consultation

If you wish to respond to the PMSE consultation questions you can contribute via an on-line form at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/ddr/howtorespond/form>

or email longer responses to: PMSE@ofcom.org.uk.

These responses must be accompanied by the consultation response coversheet found at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/244504/>.

Alternatively, you can write to Ofcom.
Please address your response to:

Steve Roper,
Ofcom
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London SE1 9HA.

Please enclose a consultation coversheet with your response.
