



# ***Amateur Radio Licensing***

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# UK Amateur Licensing

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- Ofcom Amateur Radio Consultation - **Deadline: 5pm Thu Aug-18**
- Total SFR Deregulation rolled back for now, but need to stay alert
- Ofcom-Mori Survey asked 4500, but most were M3s/2Es!
- Important to answer the deregulation questions and defend the EU RTTE Exemption that permits Amateur Radio/Satellite Construction and Use, plus the value of NoVs for experimentation, Repeaters, Beacons etc
- **Need high response rates from individuals else Ofcom will treat the current ~200 responses as representative of 60000**
- **To have <<1% Response rate will be a disaster for all concerned as Ofcom will consider us all apathetic and may treat us with contempt in future**

# Nine Questions Decide the Future

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- **Question 1:** Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a lighter, electronic licensing process? If not, please explain why.
- **Question 2:** Do you agree with the proposal to issue licences which remain valid for the life of the licensee? If not, please explain why.
- **Question 3:** Do you agree with the proposal to issue electronic amateur radio licences free of charge? If not, please explain why.
- **Question 4:** Do you agree with the proposal to apply an **administrative charge** when processing postal applications for amateur radio licences? If not, please explain why.
- **Question 5:** Do you agree that **WT Act licence exemption** for radio amateurs is not currently practical?
- **Question 6:** What are your views regarding the possibility of **WT Act licence exemption** for radio amateurs in the longer term?
- **Question 7:** Is maintaining the existing licensing regime but with an extended renewal period your preferred option? If so, please state the renewal period that you believe would be appropriate and explain why.
- **Question 8:** Do you agree that the current licensing system is over-burdensome? If not, please explain why.
- **Question 9:** Do you agree with the proposal to apply an **administrative charge** when processing applications for a Notice of Variation to an amateur radio licence? If not, please explain why.

# Q1 - Going Electronic

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- **Q1: Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a lighter, electronic licensing process?  
If not, please explain why.**

**Yes** - there is no Problem in principle

**But** the detail must cope with:-

- **Online security, including the ability to forge Acrobat PDFs**
- **Validated changes from the exam system, ie Pirate proofing!**
- **eMail address changes**
- **Its implementation and admin must not lead to a weakening of the Callsign Database Accuracy**
- **EU e-Accessibility for disabled/elderly people**

## Q3 - Free Licences ?

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- **Q3: Do you agree with the proposal to issue electronic amateur radio licences free of charge? If not, please explain why.**
- **At present Under21s and 75+ are free (even by post)**
- **Free for all (provided you do it online) sounds very attractive, but can only be realistically be done if Licences aren't renewed**
- **There is no such thing as a free Lunch. Any exception to standard licences is likely to get more charges than at present**
- **RSGB say that generally speaking Amateurs have been happy to pay yearly till now**
- **Going free (along with other changes) will reduce our status and make it more difficult to defend spectrum, interference etc from the next Ofcom change or cost cutting exercise.**
- **If a 5yr electronic system was put in, it would be less than the current one in any case**

# Q2 & Q7 - License for Life?

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- Q2: Do you agree with the proposal to issue licences which remain valid for the life of the licensee? If not, please explain why.
- Q7: Is maintaining the existing licensing regime but with an extended renewal period your preferred option? If so, please state the renewal period that you believe would be appropriate and explain why.
- **This is the heart of the arguments:-**
- **RSGB say that if there is no regular renewal , there is no guarantee that Callsign/Contact/Address info will stay uptodate. The callbook accuracy will inevitable degrade - Ofcom do not disagree with that !**
- **Ofcom want it for life as it keeps their costs down**
- **RSGB suggest 5 years is a better compromise between the current system and a radical lifetime one. If done electronically then it should be cheaper than the current one in any case**

# Q4 Postal Charges

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- **Q4: Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing postal applications for amateur radio licences? If not, please explain why.**
- **Ofcom does not state the level of the charge**
- **This would discriminate against those without Internet access or who were uncomfortable with online transactions**
- **If not changed, it would also discriminate against those who pass exams as their applications are all paper based at present.**
- **There is a risk that this may fall foul of future e-Accessibility regulations**
- **It should not conflict with current Under-21 and 75+ FOC rates**

# Q5 & Q6 - Deregulation

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- Q5: Do you agree that WT Act licence exemption for radio amateurs is not currently practical?
- Q6: What are your views regarding the possibility of WT Act licence exemption for radio amateurs in the longer term?
  
- WT Licence Exemption is the technical term for Deregulation that would undermine/close the entire hobby
- Beware of the inverted English in these questions
  
- Q5 - is Definitely Yes - its is not practical!
- Q6 - is Definitely No Thanks - Not Ever!

# Q8 - The 'Burden'

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- **Q8: Do you agree that the current licensing system is over-burdensome? If not, please explain why.**
- **On a daily basis there is little evidence that the current system is over burdensome on licensed radio amateurs who have been trained and are familiar with the rules**
- **There is though scope for a Plain-English version of the BR68 rule set**
- **For those who currently pay by direct debit, it is especially easy as no action is needed each year**
- **Ofcom may find it a burden but that is what we are paying for!**

# Q9 NoV Charges

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- **Q9: Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing applications for a Notice of Variation to an amateur radio licence? If not, please explain why.**
- **Ofcom does not state the level of charges they have in mind**
- **NoVs for 'permanent' services for the wider public good such as Beacons and Repeaters do not incur charges at present and their running costs cannot easily be recovered.**
- **Requests for short term Special Event Callsigns, Experiments, Internet Gateways etc incur more work and a fair charge is reasonable**
- **eNoV applications should be developed to make the process less of a burden and speed it up**

# Consultation List

Consultation Topic	Response			
	Deadline	UKuG	RSGB	CARS
79GHz Car Radar (SRR)	14-Jan-2005	Y	Y	Y
Spectrum Framework Review (SFR)	15-Feb-2005	Y	Y	Y
Ofcom 2005/6 Annual Plan	3-Mar-2005			Y
DAB Digital Radio	7-Mar-2005			Y
Digital TV Switchover	21-Mar-2005			Y
Ultra WideBand (UWB)	24-Mar-2005	Y		Y
Spectrum Implementation Plan (SFR-IP)	24-Mar-2005	Y		
Spectrum Audit: Public Sector - UKG	10-Apr-2005		Y	
Impact Assessments	15-Apr-2005			Y
Maritime Radio Licensing	3-May-2005			Y
24GHz Car Radar (Interim SRR)	May	Y	Y	Y
RSA for Radio Astronomy	June	BAARAG		
Amateur Radio Licensing	18-Aug-2005	Y	Y	Y
Spectrum Audit: Emerging Issues - UKG	1-Sep-2005		?	
Wireless Access Platforms (WAPECS) - EU	15-Sep-2005		?	
5GHz Wifi ?	Q3?	?	?	
RSA for Satellites	Q4?			

- **It's Important to Respond . . . . . and it's not over yet !**