

Title:

Dr

Forename:

Paul

Surname:

Groves

Representing:

Organisation

Organisation (if applicable):

Dr Paul Groves, University College London

What additional details do you want to keep confidential?:

Keep part of the response confidential

If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:

Additional Comments is confidential
Please publish everything else

Ofcom may publish a response summary:

Yes

I confirm that I have read the declaration:

Yes

Additional comments:

Question 1: Do you agree that we have identified the objectives which the small scale DAB multiplex trial should seek to achieve?:

Yes

Question 2: Are there any other questions or issues which the small scale DAB multiplex trial should seek to address?:

In parallel to the experimental trials, Ofcom should be investigating spectrum options for small scale DAB, specifically the allocation of dedicated spectrum.

There are two potential problems with sharing the existing Block 10B to Block 12D spectrum. The first is availability. Across most of England and Wales, there may only be sufficient spectrum to support a small scale DAB multiplex in each major city. Opportunities for smaller towns and cities are likely to be severely limited, particularly in the South East, where there are three London multiplexes. This needs to be investigated by Ofcom.

The second problem is that most of the available blocks in the 10B-12D range will require management of adjacent channel interference, which is normally done by sharing transmission sites with other multiplexes. This is likely to increase the costs of operating small scale DAB multiplexes due to the need to either rent space on existing masts or provide filler transmitters for other multiplexes using the small scale operator's mast(s).

Allocation of dedicated spectrum for small scale DAB would alleviate these problems.

Ofcom should therefore investigate the feasibility of this. I understand that, as part of the implementation of the GE06 agreement for VHF band III, private mobile radio transmissions were removed from Blocks 7D, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B and 9C in various parts of the UK to minimise outgoing interference to neighbouring countries. Consequently, some or all of this spectrum may now be suitable for low power DAB use.

Question 3: Do you agree with our proposed technical licence conditions?:

Yes

Question 4: Do you agree with our approach to non-technical licence conditions and requirements?:

Yes

Question 5: Do you agree with our proposed approach to awarding trial licences?:

Yes

Question 6: Do you agree with our proposals set out in this section in relation to final reporting obligations, the recovery of the equipment and the extension of trial licence duration?:

Yes