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Atkins Ltd.,
200 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G1 4RU.
Tel: 0141 220 2000

**TELECOMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
OF THE UK WATER INDUSTRY
- TAUWI -**

RESPONSE TO OFCOM'S CONSULTATION

On

**Responses to the Call for Input and Consultation on next steps of the release of
spectrum within the frequency ranges 143 MHz to 169 MHz**

INTRODUCTION

This response is provided by the **Telecommunications Association of the UK Water Industry (TAUWI)** on behalf of its members:

Anglian Water Services Ltd	Severn Trent Water Ltd
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	South East Water Ltd
Sembcorp Bournemouth Water	South Staffordshire Water
Bristol Water plc	South West Water Services Ltd
Cambridge Water plc	Southern Water plc
Dee Valley Water plc	States of Jersey Transport and Technical Services Department
Natural Resources Wales	Sutton & East Surrey Water plc
Environment Agency	Thames Water Utilities Ltd
Essex & Suffolk Water	United Utilities Water plc
Hartlepool Water	Veolia Water Central
Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board	Veolia Water East Ltd
Welsh Water	Veolia Water South East Ltd
Northern Ireland Water Ltd	Wessex Water Services Ltd
Northumbrian Water Ltd	Yorkshire Water Services Ltd
Scottish Water	

Atkins Ltd act as the main point of contact for TAUWI members and represent their interests on a range of matters, including responding to strategic consultation documents on their behalf.

This response has been circulated for review to each of the 29 member organisations that form TAUWI and therefore negates the need for submissions from individual water companies. However some members may choose to provide individual responses.

The Association was formed in April 2004 and replaces the Telecommunications Advisory Committee (TAC) which for the previous 14 years had acted as the focus for the UK Water Industry in relation to fixed and mobile communications and scanning telemetry from a technical and regulatory aspect. The scope of TAUWI has been extended to capitalise on new opportunities resulting from emerging technologies and regulatory changes. At the same time, more emphasis is being placed on strategic issues in relation to other sectors of an organisation's operation, such as IT Systems, General Communications Infrastructure and business requirements. TAUWI is chaired by Mr Roger Howell of Thames Water Utilities Ltd.

Responses

Question 1: Do you agree with the proposed approach for spectrum management?

TAUWI is in broad agreement with the proposed approach. In our response to the previous call for input regarding the release of this VHF spectrum, we had identified the possible use for Telemetry and wider bandwidth applications. However, at this time there are no applications used by the water industry that require specific access to this spectrum. We understand the proposed managed release of spectrum will meet the immediate needs of stakeholders whilst maintaining flexibility to respond in future to requirements of new applications or technologies mentioned above.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposed approach for Business Radio assignments?

TAUWI is in broad agreement with Ofcom's approach; making the spectrum available for PMR use on a first come first served basis will address the immediate congestion issues discussed.

Question 3: Do you agree with the proposal to allocate spectrum for Maritime and/or Land Search and Rescue use?

We are not in a position to comment on this question

Question 4: Do you agree with the proposal to make some spectrum not currently assigned to other applications available on a temporary for Amateur Radio use with these restrictions?

We are not in a position to comment on this question.

Lawrence Mears
Principal Engineer, Atkins Ltd
On behalf of TAUWI