

Use of the 700 MHz guard band for PMSE

The DTG Submission 13.07.2017

Question 1 Do you have any comments on our proposal to allow audio PMSE services to operate in the guard band from 694 to 703MHz, and that this would be a benefit to PMSE users?

The DTG PMSE meeting (held 14th June 2017) raised the following: The quality of the guard band spectrum would be difficult to predict and the use of 694-703MHz could not be relied upon for high profile events. During planning for an event, the spectrum could appear to be of good quality for PMSE audio, however when attendees arrive, the spectrum quality could then reduce significantly due to LTE 700 handsets which would be impossible to predict. Additionally, presenters or other users of PMSE audio equipment may also have LTE 700 equipment on them which could cause interference.

This consultation should have no bearing on the tuning range for the parallel consultation: Support for PMSE Equipment Owners. As outlined above, PMSE users might still find they cannot use the guard band with existing equipment due to LTE 700 interference, in which case they'd have been better off getting compensation rather than spectrum access. Secondly, the possibility of the two consultations being linked adds uncertainty to PMSE users who are in the process of planning transition from 700MHz. The compensation consultation should refer to the possibility of using the guard for PMSE audio users but it should not impact the defined tuning range for where compensation is calculated. PMSE equipment owners should have the option of whether they want to get compensation for equipment that uses the LTE guard band.