STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2025 No.****

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges for the 900 MHz Frequency Band and the 1800 Frequency Band) Regulations 2025

Made - - - - - - - - [NNth Month Year]

Coming into force ---- [NNth Month Year]

The Office of Communications ("OFCOM") make the following Regulations, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 12, 13(2) and 122(7) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (the "Act").

Before making these Regulations, OFCOM gave notice of their proposal to do so in accordance with section 122(4)(a) of the Act, published notice of their proposal in accordance with section 122(4)(b) of the Act, and have considered the representations made to them before the time specified in the notice in accordance with section 122(4)(c) of the Act.

Citation, commencement, and extent

- 1. (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges for the 900 MHz Frequency Band and the 1800 MHz Frequency Band) Regulations 2025.
- (2) These Regulations come into force on [date, month, and year].
- (3) These Regulations do not extend to the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"concurrent licence" means a licence held by two or more persons;

"licence" means a wireless telegraphy licence of the Public Wireless Networks licence class;

"licensee" means a person who is the holder of a licence authorising use of national channels within the 900 MHz frequency band or national channels within the 1800 MHz frequency band;

¹ Words in s. 12(5) inserted (8.6.2010) by <u>Digital Economy Act 2010 (c. 24)</u>, <u>ss. 38(2)</u>, <u>47(1)</u> <u>F2</u>S. 12(6)-(9) inserted (8.6.2010) by <u>Digital Economy Act 2010 (c. 24)</u>, <u>ss. 38(3)</u>, <u>47(1)</u>

² 2006 c. 36.

"MHz" means megahertz;

"the 2018 Regulations" means the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges for the 900 MHz Frequency Band and the 1800 MHz Frequency Band) Regulations 2018³;

"900 MHz frequency band" means the frequencies from 880.0 to 960.0 MHz; and

"1800 MHz frequency band" means the frequencies from 1710.0 to 1880.0 MHz.

Licence charges payable for the 900 MHz frequency band

- 3.- (1) On 31 October 2025, and on each anniversary of that date, the holder of a licence authorising the use of frequencies in the 900 MHz frequency band shall pay to OFCOM the total sum specified in paragraph (2).
- (2) The total sum to be paid in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be determined having regard to the following formula—

 $S = (£1,097 \times N \times [CPI_t / CPI_0])$

Where-

- (a) "S" means the total sum;
- (b) "N" means the total number of kilohertz within the 900 MHz frequency band (the use of which is authorised, under a licence, across the United Kingdom);
- (c) "CPI" means the number given in respect of that month in the monthly all items consumer prices index published by the Office for National Statistics;
- (d) "CPI_t" means the most recent CPI value that was available on the 30 September prior to the month in which charges are due; and
- (e) "CPI₀" means the CPI value for September 2024.
- (3) If the total sum calculated in accordance with paragraph (2) is a fraction of a whole number, it shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Licence charges payable for the 1800 MHz frequency band

4.- (1) On 31 October 2025, and on each anniversary of that date, the holder of a licence authorising the use of frequencies in the 1800 MHz frequency band shall pay to OFCOM the total sum specified in paragraph (2).

³ https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1368/contents

(2) The total sum to be paid in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be determined having regard to the following formula—

$$S = (£810 \times N \times [CPI_t / CPI_0])$$

Where-

- (a) "S" means the total sum;
- (b) "N" means the total number of kilohertz within the 1800 MHz frequency band (the use of which is authorised, under a licence, across the United Kingdom);
- (c) "CPI" means the number given in respect of that month in the monthly all items consumer prices index published by the Office for National Statistics;
- (d) "CPI_t" means the most recent CPI value that was available on the 30 September prior to the month in which charges are due; and
- (e) "CPI₀" means the CPI value for September 2024.
- (3) If the total sum calculated in accordance with paragraph (2) is a fraction of a whole number, it shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Payment by instalments

- 5. (1) This regulation applies in respect of a licensee where OFCOM receive notice from that licensee of the licensee's intention to make payment in twelve instalments of the total sum prescribed in either regulation 4 or regulation 5.
 - (2) Where this regulation applies in respect of a licensee, that licensee—
 - (a) Shall not be required to make payment of the total sum prescribed by regulation 4 and 5 at the prescribed time other than in accordance with this paragraph; and instead
 - (b) Shall make payment of the sum in twelve instalments with the first instalment to be paid to OFCOM on the same day as the total sum was due to be paid and each subsequent instalment to be paid on the same day in each of the following eleven months, or in a month in which there is no such day, the last day of the month.
 - (c) The first eleven instalments will equate to 1/12th of the total sum prescribed in either regulation 4 or regulation 5 rounded down to the nearest pound, with the twelfth instalment being the remainder of the total sum prescribed.
- (3) Where at any time the licensee fails to make payment in accordance with paragraph (2), all of the outstanding instalment payments, if any, including any payments that the licensee has failed to make, shall become immediately due for payment.

Concurrent licence

6.- In the case of a concurrent licence, the "holder of a licence" or the "licensee" in these Regulations shall refer to all the concurrent holders of that licence.

Revocation and transitional provision

- 7. (1) The 2018 Regulations are revoked.
- (2) Where, immediately before the coming into force of these Regulations, any sums payable to OFCOM by virtue of regulation 6 of the 2018 Regulations are outstanding, those sums are to be treated on and after the coming into force of these Regulations as-
 - (a) outstanding so far as they remain unpaid, and
 - (b) recoverable on the same basis as if they were payable under provision made by these Regulations.

[Name] [Title] [Department]

Date

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations set the level of charges payable to the Office of Communications ("OFCOM") in respect of the Spectrum Access 900 MHz and 1800 MHz licence classes, for wireless telegraphy licences granted under section 8 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 which authorise the use of the frequencies in the bands 880.0–960.0 MHz and 1710.0–1880.0 MHz.

Regulations 3 and 4 prescribe the charges payable on each 31 October after these Regulations commence.

Regulation 5 allows the holders of the Spectrum Access 900 MHz and 1800 MHz licence class to pay the licence charges due under Regulation 4 and 5 by in 12 instalments.

Regulation 7 revokes the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges for the 900 MHz Frequency Band and the 1800 MHz Frequency Band) Regulations 2018 and prescribes that any outstanding payments the Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges for the 900 MHz Frequency Band and the 1800 MHz Frequency Band) Regulations 2018 are still payable and recoverable on the same basis as if they were payable under provision made by these Regulations.