

Your response

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<p>Q1: Do you agree with our proposal to open access to the bands shown in Table 1 for satellite gateway use under the existing NGSO gateway and PES licences with the associated licensing process and fees? Are there other uses of these frequencies which you would prefer to be authorised in these bands?</p>	<p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>GSOA strongly supports Ofcom’s proposal to restore access to these frequencies for satellite gateway use under existing NGSO gateway and PES licences. First, Ofcom’s proposals to open the restored FSS frequencies for gateway licence products is the quickest way to re-establish the Ka-Band for FSS. As a result, UK citizens and consumers will benefit greatly by gaining expeditious access to these services.</p> <p>Furthermore, this proposal will foster spectrum efficiency and optimization by enabling satellite operators to dedicate increased capacity for novel services from their systems and networks. This will, <i>inter alia</i>, improve connectivity for hard-to-reach areas of the UK and enable new innovative satellite services.</p> <p>As mentioned in GSOA’s response to Ofcom’s recent consultation on proposals to amend its Satellite Earth Station Network licences, the KaBand is currently fragmented with respect to spectrum access for the Fixed Satellite Service. GSOA thus applauds these proposals that will reduce fragmentation in the Ka-Band and create new contiguous blocks of spectrum available for satellite gateways.</p>

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<p>Q2: Do you agree with our initial assessment that our proposals would benefit citizens and consumers and would not materially affect existing users of the 28 GHz band as well as future users of the unassigned spectrum?</p>	<p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>GSOA agrees with Ofcom’s initial assessments with respect to the impact on current users and the benefits to UK citizens and consumers.</p> <p>The clearest source of demand for these bands is the Fixed Satellite Service. Authorising more access to the 28 GHz band by the Fixed Satellite Service will enable UK citizens and consumers in hard-to-reach areas to improve their access to connectivity.</p> <p>It is difficult to assess the impact on future users of the spectrum before specific proposals have been made. As an initial comment, GSOA submits that there is little evidence of demands for these frequencies by terrestrial mobile or fixed point-to-multipoint services.</p> <p>However, GSOA looks forward to commenting in more detail once proposals have been developed.</p>

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<p>Q3: Do you have further views / comments that you wish to make in respect of this consultation?</p>	<p>Confidential? – N</p> <p>GSOA looks forward to commenting on Ofcom’s future proposals regarding authorisation options for wider use of the unassigned spectrum for other users, such as uncoordinated satellite terminals, in due course. While Ofcom is developing its further proposals for the band, GSOA suggests that point-to-multipoint and multipoint area fixed services are excluded from consideration. Fixed point-to-multipoint and multipoint area services would introduce unduly high barriers to the ubiquitous use of the band by the Fixed Satellite Service and are unlikely to provide material benefits.</p> <p>GSOA welcomes Ofcom’s indication in para 3.30 that before March 2024, it will also propose to allow satellite gateways to use the Q/V Band. GSOA looks forward to commenting on that future consultation.</p> <p>In the event of any future review of the remaining spectrum access licences, GSOA encourages Ofcom to consider the advantages associated with having contiguous spectrum accessible for FSS gateways. For example, if one of the holders of the remaining holders of 28 GHz Spectrum Access licences were to make a variation request to change the geographic scope of its licence, then consideration of that request could include allowing FSS gateways to “underlay” those licences.</p>