

Your response

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<p>Question 1: Do you have any comments on Ofcom's proposed Work Plan for 2025/26?</p>	<p>Confidential? –No</p> <p>Wi-Fi Alliance commends Ofcom for recognizing the critical importance of wireless connectivity as outlined in the the Plan of Work for 2025/26 (the “Plan”) (pages 19-20). Wireless broadband is undeniably a cornerstone of the UK’s digital economy, supporting innovation, productivity, and essential public services. And Wi-Fi Alliance concurs with Ofcom’s tentative plans to investigate interservice sharing options in the upper 6 GHz to address UK’s growing need for wireless connectivity (the Plan, Annex 2, page 42). Wi-Fi Alliance however, respectfully asks Ofcom to consider that a multiyear “exploration of options” effort without any substantive action will profoundly disadvantage critical 6 GHz Wi-Fi technology ecosystem, which is already proving indispensable for delivering high-capacity, low-latency connectivity to support innovation in sectors like healthcare, education, manufacturing, and smart cities. Unnecessarily prolonging regulatory uncertainty regarding the upper 6 GHz spectrum would constitute a missed opportunity to fully harness this valuable resource and deploy readily available Wi-Fi technology that fuels technological innovation and economic growth.</p> <p>Wi-Fi Alliance respectfully asks Ofcom to modify the Plan to prioritize timely and actionable outcomes on the upper 6 GHz band—a spectrum resource that is urgently needed by Wi-Fi technology to deliver next-generation connectivity to the UK consumers and enterprises.</p> <p>Call to Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Unlock the 6 GHz Wi-Fi Potential: The growing convergence of mobile (cellular) and Wi-Fi within the wireless broadband infrastructure underscores the urgent need for a decision on the 6 GHz band. This convergence is premised on leveraging the complementary strengths of mobile (cellular) and Wi-Fi technologies to deliver seamless, high-performance connectivity, with:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- mobile networks providing wide-area coverage for robust outdoor mobility.- Wi-Fi networks providing high-capacity, localized connectivity in environments such as homes, enterprises, and public venues. <p>But Wi-Fi Alliance asks Ofcom to consider that the upper 6 GHz spectrum is uniquely suited and central to the latest and future generations of Wi-Fi, such as Wi-Fi 7. There is no other frequency band with sufficient bandwidth to sustain</p>

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	<p>the high-performance demands of Wi-Fi, making access to the upper 6 GHz spectrum essential for its continued evolution and capability. Importantly, delaying the upper 6 GHz decision disproportionately disadvantages the rapidly advancing Wi-Fi ecosystem, favouring speculative and as-yet-undeveloped 6 GHz cellular technologies.</p> <p>A timely Ofcom decision to open the upper 6 GHz band for unlicensed use would send a strong signal of Ofcom’s commitment to maximizing the benefits of this spectrum. Such a decision would not only support the vibrant Wi-Fi ecosystem but also ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of global digital innovation.</p> <p>2. Foster Socioeconomic Benefits and Advance UK Competitiveness. The upper 6 GHz band has the potential to unleash transformative connectivity benefits. Ofcom’s decision to enable advanced 6 GHz Wi-Fi would empower:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Business Innovation:</i> High-throughput, low-latency wireless connectivity is essential for modern enterprises. - <i>Public Services:</i> Enhanced Wi-Fi connectivity will improve healthcare delivery (e.g., telemedicine and remote diagnostics), education (e.g., digital classrooms), and smart city initiatives. - <i>Consumer Experience:</i> Access to the upper 6 GHz band will enable advanced Wi-Fi connectivity in residential settings, particularly in multiunit housing. <p>Conversely, failing to act risks leaving the UK behind global competitors, such as the United States and South Korea, which are already benefiting from robust Wi-Fi deployments in the 6 GHz band.</p> <p>3. Respond to Urgency of Demand. The exponential growth in data traffic—driven by cloud computing, video streaming, IoT devices, and AR/VR—is placing unprecedented demands on existing spectrum resources. Without Wi-Fi access to the upper 6 GHz band, the UK’s wireless infrastructure will struggle to keep pace, creating bottlenecks for innovation and economic productivity.</p> <p>4. Align Spectrum Policy and Environmental Sustainability Priorities. Telecom networks consume significant energy resources and thereby have a substantial impact on sustainability. The Plan should account for the UK commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In this regard, Wi-Fi Alliance respectfully asks Ofcom to consider that by leveraging the upper 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi, the UK can reduce the carbon footprint of its telecommunications infrastructure, contributing to climate goals and promoting sustainable</p>

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	<p>technological development. The recent Sustainability Benefits of 6 GHz Spectrum Policy study offers clear evidence that empowering Wi-Fi with access to the upper-6 GHz band spectrum capacity results in a sizeable reduction in energy consumption and corresponding reduction in the CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>Recommendations - Wi-Fi Alliance urges Ofcom to incorporate the following actions into the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiate a Public Consultation in 2025 on the future use of the upper 6 GHz band, explicitly considering its designation for unlicensed use to support advanced wireless technologies.• Establish a Clear Decision Timelines on the upper 6 GHz band that prioritizes regulatory certainty and provides industry with a roadmap for investment in this critical spectrum. <p>Conclusion In 2025/26 Ofcom has a unique opportunity to cement the UK's leadership in wireless broadband by taking decisive action on the upper 6 GHz band. By doing so, Ofcom will optimize spectrum use for maximum benefit and ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of the digital economy. Wi-Fi Alliance stands ready to support Ofcom in this process and would welcome the opportunity to engage further on this important matter.</p> <hr/>