



Huawei response to the Ofcom public consultation: Ofcom's proposed plan of work 2022/2023

We thank Ofcom for the opportunity to comment on its proposed plan of work 2022/23. We would like to specifically comment on the following project work item:

Upper 6GHz band. Following consultation, we will look to license low-power indoor systems in the 6425 to 7070 MHz band that will enable the opportunity to deploy Wi-Fi-like equipment for industry, business and research users. We are aware that there is also industry interest in an authorisation regime that is more suitable for consumer use – for example, for mobile networks or licence-exempt Wi-Fi. This is out of scope for this consultation – but we will ensure that our proposals do not prevent these potential future uses.

Statement
Q1 2022/23

We are not convinced that it is appropriate for Ofcom to rush ahead and locally license the upper 6 GHz for Wi-Fi-like equipment given

- a) existing expressions of demand for use of the band for macro-cellular 5G networks and their evolution,
- b) absence of demand for licensed Wi-Fi,
- c) abundance of existing spectrum supply for shared access local licences,
- d) ongoing international studies for identification of the upper 6 GHz for IMT,
- e) the clear risk that Ofcom's proposed approach would restrict – if not foreclose – options for future use of the band by 5G networks.

Accordingly, we recommend that Ofcom launches a consultation on the upper 6 GHz, addressing a number of alternative options, including not only licensed low-power indoor Wi-Fi-like equipment but also macro-cellular 5G mobile networks, and aim to publish a statement in 2024 accounting for the outcome of international studies at the World Radio Conference in 2023.

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