



Talk Sport Medium Wave Consultation,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2a Southwark Bridge Road,
London SE1 9HA

12th March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Talk Sport vacating medium wave

I have no issues with Talk Sport vacating its medium wave frequencies.

Does Ofcom have a policy concerning the future of the use of medium wave in the UK? I would like to see vacant BBC and commercial radio frequencies re-advertised. I would like to see them used by:

Small scale start up radio stations, that could use the frequency to see if there is sufficient demand for their programming to make applying for a more widescale license viable.

Low power (perhaps below 1kw) licenses awarded to unlicensed broadcasters, the part time weekend and/or evening enthusiasts. I believe that this will cut down on the huge amount of time taken up by the radio interference service and the police in tracking these stations down.

Use medium wave for a raft of new radio stations which have been unsuccessful in getting acceptance on an established DAB multiplex.

When the BBC vacates their 198 kHz frequency, I would like to see this advertised for another broadcaster to use.

I have read that RAJAR figures suggest that listening on medium and long wave is in gross decline. I think that has something to do with the fact that most stations on medium and long wave have alternative frequencies which often provide for better reception. A medium and long wave rejuvenated and populated by a new swathe of stations would turn this around.

Finally, I think a medium and long wave broadcast

infrastructure is essential in the event of a national emergency, including civil unrest and war. Amplitude modulated (AM) transmitters are simple and inexpensive to build compared to digital transmitters. They can have an over the horizon coverage and if necessary can be set up quickly and dismantled again and taken away. By the same token, AM receivers are cheap and easy to make. If OFCOM were to readvertise the vacated AM frequencies and thus keep medium and long wave broadcasting alive, then manufacturers would be incentivised to produce and sell more radios with AM coverage.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

