

Review of the Spectrum Management Approach in the 71-76 GHz and 81-86 GHz Bands

Stakeholder Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why is Ofcom reviewing the spectrum in the 71-76 GHz and 81-86 GHz band?

The review of this spectrum was identified as the highest priority work item emerging from the strategic spectrum review conducted last year. Further details on the spectrum review can be found here

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/spectrum-review/>. In this document we identified an urgent need to review the future management of the 70/80 GHz band to address the changing nature of demand for this spectrum and its potential importance of for the deployment of high capacity, high availability 4G backhaul.

2. What decisions have been made regarding the future use of this spectrum in the UK?

No decisions have been made yet regarding the future management approach of the band. At this stage Ofcom is consulting on proposals based on a *mixed management approach* in the future, which would consist of both the self coordinated approach and an Ofcom coordinated approach in separate parts of the band. Ofcom is currently consulting on these proposals and will issue a decision/policy statement following the completion of this process. The consultation document can be found here <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/70-80ghz-review/> and closes on the 14th October 2013.

3. What are the new frequency ranges proposed for the self coordinated block and the maximum channel size that can be used and that of the coordinated block?

Ofcom is proposing the following band segmentation:

Segment	Block Size	Frequency range	Maximum channel bandwidth	Band Plan
Self coordinated block	2.5 GHz	73.375 - 75.875 GHz and 83.375-85.875 GHz	2.5 GHz	no channel plan
Coordinated Block	2 GHz (limited to 1 GHz in the initial instance)	71.125-73.125 GHz and 81.125-83.125 GHz	500 MHz	CEPT band plan (ECC RECOMMENDATION (05)07)
Guard band between the self-coordinated and coordinated block	250 MHz	73.125- 73.375 GHz and 83.125- 83.375 GHz	-	-

4. How do Ofcom's proposals impact existing licence holders with respect to the registration of new self coordinated links?

As a result of Ofcom's proposals and to prepare for the changes proposed, existing licences have been issued a notice of proposed variation (dated 21 August 2013). The notice of proposed variation sets out how the new licence would look if the proposals in our consultation are taken forward. This essentially facilitates the continued registration of links in the top half of each sub-band only i.e. 73.375 - 75.875 GHz and 83.375 - 85.875 GHz part of the band.

In order to preserve options during the consultation process and until Ofcom issues a final policy statement any link registrations that are submitted by existing licence holders for self coordinated links in the proposed coordinated block and the guard band (i.e. 71.125-73.375 GHz and/or 81.125-83.375 GHz) will not be accepted.

Self coordinated link registrations received by Ofcom up to the date of publication of the consultation document will continue to remain in the band under existing licence conditions.

5. How will Ofcom process new self coordinated licences?

Licence applications will continue to be processed as per the normal process that currently applies for self coordinated links with the exception that from 21 August 2013 a new self coordinated licence (with new terms) will be issued. The licence issued will allow link registration in the normal way but will limit registration /authorisation to the 73.375 - 75.875 GHz and 83.375-85.875 GHz parts of the band i.e. the proposed self coordinated block.

6. How can I vary my existing self coordinated link registrations?

As per the existing policy and self coordinated licence conditions variations to self coordinated links are not permitted. Existing links that need to be changed must be cancelled from the register and a new link registered along with the new date / time entry as per the current process. New self coordinated links registered from the 21st August 2013 will need to be registered within the 73.375 - 75.875 GHz and 83.375-85.875 GHz block.

7. Are there going to be any changes to the licence and link registration fees?

Ofcom is not proposing any change to the current fee for self coordinated links. The self-coordinated licence class will be subject to the sector based fees review for Fixed Links which is currently planned for 2014.

8. Is Ofcom mandating any channel plans for the self coordinated block?

Ofcom is not proposing to mandate channel arrangements for the self coordinated block. However Ofcom is seeking stakeholder opinion on how the current self coordinated approach could be improved in the future and one aspect of this includes whether the CEPT channel should be implemented for the self coordinated approach.

- 9. I have an existing self coordinated licence issued prior to 21st August 2013 and have received a letter of proposed licence variation from Ofcom. There are two separate dates given in the letter for receiving comments, one for the proposed licence variation and the other for the policy consultation. Is this correct?**

Yes, while the policy consultation and the proposed licence variation form part of the same overall work item we need to separate out the two consultations. In doing this we have also given an extra four weeks for existing licensees to make any representations they wish to make specifically with respect to the proposed changes to their existing licence(s). The closure date for comments to the two consultations is as follows:

Consultation Process	Closure date for comments	E-Mail address to send comments to:
Policy Consultation Document http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/70-80ghz-review/	14 th October 2013	7080GHzReview@ofcom.org.uk
Proposed Licence Variation Consultation (with respect to existing Licences)	11 th November 2013	7080GHzVariation@ofcom.org.uk
