

**Title:**

Mr

**Forename:**

Ian

**Surname:**

Atherton

**Representing:**

Self

**Organisation (if applicable):**

**Email:**

**What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:**

Keep nothing confidential

**If you want part of your response kept confidential, which parts?:**

**Ofcom may publish a response summary:**

Yes

**I confirm that I have read the declaration:**

Yes

**Ofcom should only publish this response after the consultation has ended:**

You may publish my response on receipt

**Additional comments:**

I believe that the introduction of pricing for VHF frequencies used by GA (General Aviation) will result in many small airfields and clubs abandoning their A/G radios making the UK airspace more dangerous. To have priced an A/G frequency the same as that used at a commercial airfield is nothing short of a tax on those of us who enjoy aviation as a hobby. Already frequencies are "shared" between airfields, albeit they

are so far apart as to be non interfering.

Since all aviation users, both ground and airborne stations, already pay a licence fee why do we need yet more fees?

Just what "management" will the extra funding provide?

**Question 1: Do you consider that our proposed fee rates for licences in the aeronautical VHF frequencies are appropriate?:**

No. Since all users, both on the ground and in the air, pay a licence fee why do we need yet more?

**Question 2: In devising our revised proposals, have we identified all of the aeronautical uses of VHF communications frequencies which require a distinct approach to fee setting, as set out in tables 5 and 6?:**

**Question 3: Do you agree with our proposal not to charge any fees for Fire assignments?:**

Yes

**Question 4: Do you agree with our proposal to set a £75 fee for licences in any of the sporting frequencies?:**

No

**Question 5: Do you agree with our proposal to set an annual fee of £19,800 per ACARS or VDL assignment, with no variation related to the number of transmitters?:**

**Question 6: Do you consider that our proposed approach to phasing in fees for use of the aeronautical VHF communications channels are appropriate? If there are particular reasons why you consider that any user or group of users would need longer phasing-in periods, please provide any supporting evidence for us to consider. Specifically, do you have any evidence for us to consider that would support either of Options 1 and 2 for the highest proposed fee in this sector?:**

No.....I don't agree the need for the fees at all

**Question 7: Do you have any further quantified information to contribute to the analysis of financial impacts of the proposed fees on particular spectrum users, as set out in Annex 5? We would like to publish all responses, but will respect the confidentiality of any material which is clearly marked as such.:**

**Question 8: Do you consider that our assessment of the impacts of our proposals has taken full account of relevant factors? If you consider that there is additional evidence that would indicate particular impacts we should take into account, we would be grateful if you could provide this.:**

No.....I think you have underestimated the im[act on the GA community. Aviation to us is a hobby and the radio frequencies used by GA airfields are there to provide safety information only. Imposing this tax on freuencies will cause many to abandon their A/G radio stations as they will become unaffordable.....You don't seem to realise that GA airfields are operating on a shoestring.