

Title:

Mr

Forename:

Melville

Surname:

Gale

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

Member, but not representing LAA

Email:

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?:

Keep nothing confidential

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

Publish all upon receipt.

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:

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

No they are wholly inappropriate to the G.A. sector, and I fear will drive some sectors to non radio and reduce safety.

The present structure isn't 'BROKEN' so I can only surmise that the AIP is a stealth tax (surely something outside the remit of OFCOM?) You CANNOT let so called market forces drive along something as fundamental to air safety as communication. I NEED to know that someone is on "late down wind" or "short final" my life, and theirs, depends on knowing that.

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?:

The current system isn't broken, G.A. and small licensed, and unlicensed airfields cannot support huge hikes in cost over what is already levied for our licenses.

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

Yes, for small licensed and unlicensed airfields and for one off aviation events such as air shows. However if you are really determined to levy some kind of tax from aviation, then I have no objection to large civil aviation establishments such as Heathrow Manchester Bristol etc paying proportionate fees, for fire assignments and as a frequent user of civil airlines I would not object to the 'pence' added to my airfare to cover this as it would surely filter down to the end user

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

Absolutely not, these events run on a shoestring and I feel can most equitably be supported by the civil sector, and should at best be nominal say a maximum of £5 P.A.

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?:

No

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?:

As previously stated they are wholly inappropriate, and I am strongly against your proposed 'marketing' of frequencies, as this will have a detrimental impact on the viability of self funded (recreational) aviation and more seriously on it's safety.

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.:

I feel that you should contact all small G.A. airfields that provide services, flying training, maintenance facilities and local employment to gain a better understanding of how these proposals will damage their livelihood.

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, you need to consult with the G.A. market and such bodies as AOPA and the LAA, oh and the C.A.A.