

**Question 1: How should Ofcom manage the process of taking advice from users, regulators and government on efficient apportionment of AIP fees in the maritime and aeronautical sectors? Are any new institutional arrangements needed?:**

Due to the vital nature of their work the emergency search and rescue teams should be given priority over commercial interests in this process.

**Question 2: If you consider that our proposals for pricing ground station users for any spectrum would be likely to have a detrimental impact on safety, please let us know. In order for us to understand your assessment fully, it would be helpful if you could outline the mechanisms whereby this might happen.?:**

I am concerned that pricing of SAR frequencies would put undue pressure to compress usage beyond simple efficiency. Several different organisations have expressed concern around saturation of the SAR frequencies when they are needed most during multiple incidents. Effective communication can make all the difference to reduce casualties and fatalities in these situations and this added constraint is wholly preventable.

**Question 3: Do you have any evidence which indicates that AIP charged to ground stations could have a material detrimental impact on UK competitiveness?:**

**Question 4: Taking into account the information available in this document, including that set out in Annex 5, our initial views on VHF radiocommunications licence fees and on the reference rates for bands in other uses, and any information you have about the organisations to whom we are proposing to charge fees, please provide any evidence that you think is relevant to us in considering the financial impact of the fees we intend to propose for VHF radiocommunications, or for other uses:**

Voluntary life-saving organisations provide a vital service and should not be incurring charges for communications for which hard earned funds need to be raised. It is quite unnecessary to saddle this additional burden on organisations that should be focussing on maintaining a strong and well equipped volunteer base for the purpose of saving lives.

**Question 5: Do you agree that there is little to be gained, in terms of economic efficiency, from charging AIP to WT Act licences for aircraft:**

Yes

**Question 6: Do you consider that we should discount fees for any particular user or type of user? Specifically, do you consider that there**

**should be a discount for charities whose object is the safety of human life in an emergency:**

Yes, I believe the charitable life saving organisations should be exempt from these fees and the available SAR channels maintained at a level to service their needs.

**Question 7: Do you agree that Ofcom should apply AIP to ground stations? use of maritime and aeronautical VHF radiocommunications channels, to help manage growing congestion in current use and to ensure that the cost of denying access to this spectrum by potential alternative applications is faced by current users?:**

As a mechanism to achieve efficiency of commercial channels market forces are fine. This is not the correct method for the SAR channels.

**Question 8: Do you agree with our initial view that it would be appropriate to apply a pricing system similar to that already existing for Business Radio licences to maritime and aeronautical VHF communications? If not, what are your reasons for proposing that we should develop a fee structure for maritime and aeronautical VHF channels which is distinct from that already established for Business Radio?:**

Yes for commercial channels

**Question 9: Are there any short term reasons specific to the sector(s) why it would be inappropriate to apply fees from April 2009?:**

I have no issues with this for commercial channels.

**Question 10: Ofcom would welcome stakeholders? views on the factors which should be taken into account when apportioning fees between individual users of radars and racons:**

Volunteer life saving organisations should not incur charges for these.

**Question 11: Do you agree with our initial view that a reference rate of £126k per 1 MHz of national spectrum for L band and S band radar spectrum would achieve an appropriate balance between providing incentives to ensure efficient use of spectrum while guarding against the risks of regulatory failure in setting the reference rate too high? If you consider a different rate would be more appropriate, please provide any evidence that you think we should take into account.:**

I have no issues with this for commercial channels.

**Question 12: Do you agree with our initial view that a reference rate of £25k per single MHz of national spectrum would be appropriate for deriving fees for licences to use X band radar?:**

I have no issues with this for commercial channels.

**Question 13: Do you agree that, generally, spectrum used by aeronautical radionavigation aids is currently uncongested? Do you believe that this may change during the next few years and, if so, approximately when?:**

**Question 14: Do you agree with the basis on which Ofcom has arrived at its initial view on reference rates for aeronautical radionavigation aids?:**

**Comments:**

As a volunteer with several charities I am aware of the pressures and priorities of funding. I am also a walking group leader and encourage responsible outdoor activities. In an age when safety has never been of more importance the critical work of these organisations in remote areas should not be compromised.