

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?:

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.?:

How on earth are charitable organisations (such as the RNLI) expected to continue to function when you are potentially imposing these increased costs. It'll mean fewer lifeboats operating which will place lives at risk.

The RNLI operates as a charity with no government help. They offer a service that should be provided by the government of this country, they risk their lives for others for no great reward. Show them some respect.

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

The RNLI state that a years fees would cost the equivalent of 80 lifeboats. Those are 80 lifeboats

The RNLI currently pays £48,000 per year at a 50% discounted rate. This in itself is scandalous (it should be free of charge for them). You propose raising it to nearly £250,000. You do this at the same time as offering free digital satellite tv for some people in areas of the country. Utterly sickening.

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:

Ask the RNLI how much they pay at the minute to run their service at no cost to the government. Do you think it is fair to charge them anything?

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:

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 - a charity like the RNLI should be completely exempt from any fee. Subsidise their cost from every other licence if you have to make the money up. Plenty of people rely on them as an emergency service. Give them a break for Gods sake! Show a little respect for what they do.

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?:

It does need to be managed but consider the types of people using it rather than slap one big cost down on everyone. The RNLI should not pay.

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?:

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

Hold off until you can help the RNLI balance their books. If you go ahead you WILL put lives at risk.

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:

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.:

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?:

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:

Utterly scandalous and you should be ashamed of yourselves. Presumably you have never been helped by the RNLI?