

Vectone Network Limited

Question 1.1: Do you have any other comments on this consultation document in addition to those made in response to the questions set out below?:

No

Question 3.1: Do you have any comments on Ofcom's interpretation of its obligations under the forthcoming RSC Decision?:

It is our opinion that Ofcom's interpretation in this respect is in accordance with the draft RSC Decision

Question 5.1: Do you agree that the 900 MHz spectrum is likely to provide a cost advantage over higher frequencies for the provision of mobile broadband services? If so, do you believe that Ofcom's estimates of the size of that cost advantage are representative of what would realised in practice?:

We agree with this contention but are unconvinced with the magnitude of the cost advantage estimated by Ofcom

Question 5.2: Do you agree that the 1800 MHz spectrum is unlikely in practice to provide a cost advantage over higher frequencies for the provision of mobile broadband services?:

We agree in principle with this assertion.

Question 6.1: Do you agree that if the existing distribution of the 900 MHz spectrum continued post liberalisation, this would be unlikely to promote competition for the provision of mobile broadband services?:

We agree that were the existing distribution to continue this would be unlikely to benefit competition in this sector and that opening up this sector would facilitate the creation of a market based on competition on the merits rather than dominant position.

Question 6.2: Do you agree that if the existing distribution of the 900 MHz spectrum continued post liberalisation, this would be unlikely to secure optimal use of the radio spectrum?:

Yes, for the the reasons stated in respect of 6.1 above.

Question 6.3: Do you agree that if the existing distribution of the 1800 MHz spectrum continued post liberalisation, this would be likely to promote competition for the provision of mobile broadband services?:

We refute the contention that were the existing distribution to continue this would be likely to promote competition in this sector and maintain that opening up this sector would facilitate the creation of a market based on competition on the merits rather than dominant position.

Question 6.4: Do you agree that if the existing distribution of the 1800 MHz spectrum continued post liberalisation, this would be likely to secure optimal use of the radio spectrum?:

No, for the reasons stated in respect of 6.3 above.

Question 8.1: Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the merits of Option A (Liberalisation in the hands of the incumbents) for the implementation of the RSC Decision in respect of the 900 MHz spectrum?:

Yes

Question 8.2: Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the merits of Option A (Liberalisation in the hands of the incumbents) for the implementation of the RSC Decision in respect of the 1800 MHz spectrum?:

We do not agree with this assessment on the grounds that liberalisation when left to the incumbent is never as efficient as that which is imposed on the incumbent and the likely outcome of such an approach would be to limit competition.

Question 9.1: Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the merits of Option B (Liberalisation in the hands of the incumbents subject to a roaming condition) for the implementation of the RSC Decision in respect of the 900 MHz spectrum?:

Yes

Question 9.2: Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the merits of Option B (Liberalisation in the hands of the incumbents subject to a roaming condition) for the implementation of the RSC Decision in respect of the 1800 MHz spectrum?:

We do not agree with this assessment on the grounds that liberalisation when left to the incumbent is never as efficient as that which is imposed on the incumbent and the likely outcome of such an approach would be to limit competition.

Question 10.1: Do you agree that in principle some form of mandatory release of 900 MHz spectrum is appropriate in order to implement the RSC Decision?:

Yes

Question 10.2: Do you agree that in principle some form of mandatory release of 1800 MHz spectrum is unlikely to be appropriate and that Option A is likely to be the most appropriate means to implement the RSC Decision in respect of the 1800 MHz spectrum?:

We reluctantly agree that such approach may be the most proportionate available in the circumstances.

Question 11.1: Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment that the version of Option C in which there is the simultaneous release of three 2 x 5 MHz blocks of 900 MHz spectrum in 2010 is likely to be the most appropriate means to implement the RSC Decision in respect of the 900 MHz spectrum?:

We agree that this is likely to be the most proportionate measure but do not believe that it would be the most effective.

Question 12.1: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal for the mechanism of release and the terms and condition for the released 900 MHz spectrum?:

Yes, subject to Ofcom being able to conduct the subsequent auction before the end of 2008 as to delay beyond this date would likely halt the development of the market.

Question 12.2: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal for the terms and conditions for the retained 900 MHz spectrum?:

Yes

Question 13.1: Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the merits of Option D (Full Mandatory spectrum Release) for the implementation of the RSC Decision in respect of the 900 MHz spectrum?:

We disagree with Ofcom's assessment but agree that such approach would likely be disproportionate.

Question 14.1: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals for the implementation of the RSC Decision in relation to the 900 MHz spectrum?:

No, we believe that implementation must be speedier to ensure effective competition is not unduly restricted.

Question 14.2: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals for the implementation of the RSC Decision in relation to the 1800 MHz spectrum?:

Save for the risk of undue delay we agree with Ofcom's proposals.

Question 15.1: Do you think that Ofcom should make the 900 and 1800 MHz spectrum available for systems other than GSM and UMTS? If so, for what systems, on what timescale and by what mechanism?:

We believe that the use of such spectrum should be designated as being technology neutral.

Question 15.2: Do you believe that licences for the 900 and 1800 MHz spectrum should be made tradable? If so, on what timescale and should trading be subject to any competition restrictions ?:

Yes and as soon as practicable, subject to the restriction that existing MNOs should be excluded from those capable of obtaining such spectrum.

Question 16.1: Do you believe that the licences for 2.1 GHz should be liberalised and if so on what timescale?:

Yes.

Question 16.2: Do you believe that the licences for 2.1 GHz should be made tradable and if so on what timescale? :

Yes, as soon as practicable.

Comments: