

Title:

Mr

Forename:

G B

Surname:

Smith

Name and title under which you would like this response to appear:

G B Smith

Representing:

Organisation

Organisation (if applicable):

Halladale TV Committee

Email:

N/A

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

Question 1: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal to license digital self helps for areas currently served by a self help relay, and how we propose to make available licences? If not, please give your reasons.:

Yes. If terrestrial TV reception in our area remains poor after switch-over, we will require an alternative to the main transmitters. The self-help relay will provide viewers with a minimum-cost method of continuing to receive broadcasts, and it is therefore welcome that the existing relay can be re-licensed.

Question 2: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal to license digital self helps for areas not currently served by a self help relay, and how we propose to make available licences? If not, please give your reasons.:

Yes. Those who lose reception as a result of switch-over or other circumstances should have the opportunity to install a self-help relay.

Question 3: Do you agree with how Ofcom proposes to deal with the frequency planning for self help relays? If not, please give your reasons.:

Partly yes, partly no. In our case, with an existing relay, Ofcom's proposals would be satisfactory if we could continue using an active deflector. However, if we had to buy transposer equipment and in addition pay for the new frequencies, our system might become unaffordable. Given the remote and fixed location of the relay, and its very limited transmission range, it seems unreasonable that we should be charged for the use of spectrum within such a small area of the country.

In new cases, where a loss of reception is a result of switch-over or other circumstances beyond viewers' control, the charges for frequency planning and additional spectrum could prevent the installation going ahead.

Question 4: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposed fee for WTA licences for self help relays? If not, please give your reasons.:

Our current fee is £10 for five years, not £50 as stated in the consultation document. £75 would be a large increase, but, in my personal opinion, it is not excessive when spread over five years and amongst subscribers to a relay.

Additional comments:

The technical assistance to be offered to relay operators will be appreciated.

Some users of our relay have also installed satellite systems, but still use our signals for portable or additional TVs. During the four years before switch-over in our area, it is possible that some more will change to satellite, but I think that the relay will still be required.