

Question 1: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal to exempt users of Citizen's Band (CB) radio (and other related applications such as Community Audio Distribution) from the need to possess a Wireless Telegraphy Licence.:

Question 2: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals to permit the use of 'Micro' FM transmitters in the UK, and to authorise that use by licence exemption.: Yes, I broadly agree with these proposals, however I am proposing an amendment which is documented below.

Many people now listen to live (& 'listen again') radio services from the internet but they are anchored to their computers or have to invest in relatively expensive network streaming devices to hear the Internet radio service on their hi-fi rather than on a portable radio which might in the kitchen, bathroom or bedroom. Wouldn't it be great if our regulator allowed us to legally attach a low power FM transmitter to the audio output of our PCs (or our Freeview, Sky or Cable box for access to digital radio services) so we could listen anywhere around our homes on regular analogue radios to these other Internet and digital radio services? Wi-Fi Internet enabled radios are still expensive and, as yet, unproven and DAB has still to achieve critical mass. The FM radio though is ubiquitous in all homes and could truly help widen radio listening choice, particularly to stations that broadcast solely on the Internet, DAB, DSAT or Dcable.

I feel that if Ofcom enable the use of such devices as proposed (50nW) this will prevent real opportunity and innovation. Two standards could be introduced; e.g. 50nW for portable MP3 players and say c50mW for fixed devices such as a PC or digital TV box. In the long run, making digital radio services available in this way could help the take up of digital DAB radio services too. Other countries; New Zealand and the USA for example, have enabled this opportunity with greater output powers.

Proposal

I propose that Ofcom give serious consideration to increasing the power output sufficient to enable coverage of the average home in much the same way as wi-fi has enabled wireless Internet access and home networking.

I would be interested in exploring and developing this idea with Ofcom or other interested parties.

NB I am not involved in the use, manufacturing or marketing of the FM radio transmitters I describe above. The proposal is merely an idea for further innovative and efficient use of the radio spectrum.

Question 3: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals to exempt users of High Density Fixed Satellite Services (HDFSS) terminals from the need to possess a Wireless Telegraphy Licence.:

Question 4: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals to exempt users of Inmarsat GAN terminals from the need to possess a Wireless telegraphy Licence.:

Question 5: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals to make available the frequency 24.05-24.25 GHz for use by short range radar (including automotive applications) devices on a licence-exempt basis.:

Question 6: Do you with Ofcom's proposals to make available the band 2.4 GHz-2.4385 GHz for movement detection systems.:

Question 7: Do you with Ofcom's proposals to remove the need for users of most radar level gauge equipment to possess a Wireless Telegraphy Licence.:

Question 8: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposals to exempt users Digital PMR 446 from the need to possess a Wireless telegraphy Licence.:

Question 9: Ofcom would welcome comments on it proposals to implements these changes concerning short range devices.:

Question 10: Ofcom would welcome comments on it proposals to implement EC Decision 2005/928/.::

Question 11: Ofcom would welcome comments on it proposals to implement EC Decision 2005/513/.::

Question 12: Ofcom would welcome comments on any of the minor changes set out in this chapter and any other broader issues in relation to its approach to licence-exemption.:

Additional comments: