

RSGB Intruder Watch

The RSGB Intruder Watch exists in order to keep our exclusive amateur bands clear of non-amateur transmissions. It consists of a Coordinator (G4BOH) and a small number of monitors who check the bands and report any signals which should not be there. There are also other amateurs who report unauthorised signals on an irregular basis but who are not part of the 'official' monitoring team. The presence of numerous intruders is also brought to the notice of Intruder Watch by other amateurs who simply find a suspicious signal and report it as a one off action. Once a report is received by the Coordinator, the signal is observed and logged. If it is a data signal, a Hoka data analyser is used in order to classify the mode. This information is then phoned through to the Operations Room at the OFCOM monitoring station at Baldock where direction finding and, where necessary, further data analysis will be used to determine the origin of the signal.

If the intruding signal is coming from within the UK, a phone call from Baldock to the appropriate agency often clears it within minutes when the error is made known to the person making it! If the transmission is from outside the UK, there is usually a set number of observations to be made before formal procedures are followed and the appropriate international ministry or agency is informed and requested to investigate. If none of this works, there is a longer procedure where a formal complaint is made and the ITU are involved, this rarely happens but it is not unknown. Because of the international standing of Baldock, much of the above can be short circuited by means of an informal phone call or email to the correct person which usually achieves the required result without a lot of paperwork. The role of Baldock in taking the removal of an intruder from one of our bands from first report to a resulting clear frequency is absolutely vital and we are well served by their effective and willing assistance when we have a problem.

As the RSGB Intruder Watch is part of the Region 1 IARU Monitoring System, coordination with our sister organisations is essential. A report is sent on a monthly basis to the Coordinator in Germany and direct contact regarding current intruders is encouraged. As a result of involvement of the RSGB IW, intruders removed recently include two NATO data signals on 14 MHz, a French military morse transmission on 7 MHz and a number of legitimate broadcast transmitters outside our bands causing splatter at 7 MHz. An interesting exercise earlier this year involved Baldock asking Falmouth Coast Guard to clear a couple of trawlers off 7050 kHz!

All intruder reports are acknowledged and should be sent to G4BOH at iw@rsgb.org.uk