

Spectrum Forum Report October 2017

By early 2018, emergency communications will be under a single unified organisation – RAYNET-UK – and a Special Interest Group in its own right.

Membership is currently just under 2000, in 129 RAYNET groups, based throughout the United Kingdom.

Development of a new website is currently being undertaken, and will use cloud services provided by Microsoft Azure, following the award of \$5000 from their own not-for-profit fund.

1. VHF usage survey.

From the VHF Committee newsletter:

"The chairmen of VHF committees in the 3 regions have been asked by the IARU Administrative Council to provide information on spectrum usage to support their work in defending our allocations. This has to be completed as soon as possible and the results are needed by the beginning of 2018. This will be done by a task group, who will prepare the survey and stimulate all MS to cooperate. Members proposed for this task group were: G6JYB, EI3IO, ON6TI, DG8NGN ON4AVJ"

RAYNET-UK needs to have input into this survey, especially to highlight increasing use of 2.4 and 5GHz for HAMNET/HSMM activities. G6JYB has said that there was only one available channel that complied with band plan and licensing, but having emergency network use would be a good thing to mention for band defence.

2. 'Emergency use' added to footnote for 5MHz

The IARU conference introduced 'Emergency use' into the foot note for 5MHz and made changes to 50MHz etc.

Although none of these changes would happen immediately (reinforced by the latest RadCom, which says any band planning changes from Landshut won't happen until discussed at the Spectrum Forum and then published in early 2018).

Consideration needs to be given to any negative changes and for RAYNET-UK to defend, to ensure anything in our favour remains so.

There may also be matters to raise under Agenda items 8 -11.