



Intruder Watch Coordinator's Spectrum Forum Report

Summary

This report relates to the 12 months from 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019.

Intruder Watch (IW) was somewhat resurrected early in 2018 following a fallow period of several years, and many reports of HF intruders were sent to Ofcom in Q2 and Q3 of that year. After this initial flurry of catch-up activity the number of reports has settled down. The table below shows the number of reports in each quarter showing the bands mostly affected and the types of intruder encountered.

Quarter	Total reports	Band			Type of intruding signal					
		7 MHz	14 MHz	Other	AM BC	FSK	CIS-12	Link 11	OTH radar	Other
2018 Q2	44	37	4	3	8	10	15	3	1	7
2018 Q3	45	45			4	14	16	8		3
2018 Q4	5	5			2	2				1
2019 Q1	18	3	15			3			15	
2019 Q2	16	7	9			8	3	1	4	
2019 Q3	4	3		1		3			1	

During the year the Coordinator has improved the process for 'triaging' reports to reduce referrals to Ofcom which are unlikely to bear fruit.

The KiwiSDR TDoA direction-finding facility has sometimes enabled IW to locate the source of a transmission and refrain from reporting signals that are coming from international waters or from countries covered by an allocation to their Fixed Service in a footnote in the ITU Radio Regulations.

Over-the-horizon radar

This year saw a number of intrusions, particularly into the 14 MHz band, from a new Russian OTH radar system known as Container, or type 29B6. This is Russia's long-term replacement for the Duga radar (known to amateurs as the Woodpecker) which came to a sudden demise in 1986 following the disaster at Chernobyl. Container aims to provide air surveillance and air defence at a range of up to 2500 km. Fortunately the powers and bandwidths used (usually about 14 kHz) are much lower than those of its notorious predecessor.

Container transmissions were persistent in March 2019, occupying frequencies in our 14 MHz band for several days. Complaints relating to interference on two frequencies were made via the ITU by both Ofcom and the German regulator BNetzA. Since then Container intrusions have been fewer in number and briefer in duration.

A Chinese system nicknamed Foghorn, and the Pluto radar operated by the RAF on Cyprus also caused some interference.

IARU Region 1 Monitoring System

RSGB Intruder Watch is a member of the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System, and it continues to exchange reports with other participants. The Intruder Watch log appears along with those of the other societies in the IARU R1 Monitoring System Newsletter, which is published monthly. Information about intruders is also exchanged daily via a real-time web logger and a mailing list.

There is a comprehensive web site with links to these resources at:

<https://www.iarums-r1.org/>

While input from other countries provides a useful stream of tip-offs about intruder activity, IW can only make reports to Ofcom on the basis of intruders heard by UK licensed amateurs. Also, to ensure that only regular and persistent intruders are reported, IW can only report intruders to Ofcom when they have been heard by UK amateurs on three occasions (e.g. one amateur on three occasions or three amateurs once each).

The quickest way to report an intruder is to use the real-time web logger. Please log in with your UK callsign and make a one-line entry beginning with the frequency:

<http://peditio.net/intruder/bluechat.cgi>

Alternatively, you can email the IW Coordinator at: iw@rsgb.org.uk

Amateurs in other countries can also use the web logger above, or report intruders via their own monitoring systems.

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