



## ETCC Spectrum Forum Report

### Summary

2020 has seen an unprecedented increase in applications to ETCC, the Covid pandemic has stimulated a significant increase in voice repeater and gateway proposals in line with the increased Amateur activity during lockdown. The number of new applications has almost trebled from 56 in 2019 to 162 in 2020. This has meant a great deal of extra work for the ETCC members, who of course rose to the challenge.

Inevitably, this has placed considerable pressure on the frequencies available, and in many parts of the country, new 2 metre applications are not possible within the established channels. We have identified one more potential channel pair which should not conflict with the existing bandplan and hope this can be agreed.

144.9875/145.5875

The increased demand for channels to support digital voice modes in 70cm has been met so far, by re-assigning lightly used frequencies originally assigned for Packet radio.

Plans to re-structure ATV frequencies to align with pressure on microwave spectrum is ongoing, with an emphasis on narrower bandwidth digital formats.

There have been a few applications for other modes, mostly data, which have generally been accommodated, often with considerable dialogue with the applicant.

The Ofcom agreement to flexibility in assigning NoV expiry dates has allowed us to spread the loading over the year and reduce the peaks in administrative load.

Primary user frequency clearances have been completed quite quickly on the whole. There was a period at the start of the pandemic when MOD stopped new applications, but they seems to have resumed now.

### Main points

- ETCC has processed 100+ additional new applications beyond the annual norm, plus more than 500 renewals of existing NoVs.
- The time-shifted renewal process has worked well to spread renewal dates over the year.
- Primary user permission delays have been greatly reduced.

My thanks again to all the regional and specialist managers for their hard work throughout this difficult year.

Andrew Barrett G8DOR  
ETCC Chairman