



## RSGB VHF Manager's Report

### Report for Spectrum Forum, November 2021

The VHF Manager, John Regnault G4SWX is responsible for RSGB spectrum matters for the VHF and UHF amateur bands 50-432MHz.

#### Issues:

- A recent report to Ofcom on the experimental work at 70.5MHz and 146MHz highlighted the latest developments particularly the work with reduced bandwidth DVB-T and data over OFDM.
- Following a recent RSGB request we are pleased that Ofcom will renew the temporary experimental spectrum at 70.5-71.5MHz and 146-147MHz another year (*see separate technical update*). This is subject to conditions as other 146MHz use is increasing.
- There was some concern in the VHF/UHF community about the implications of the EMF Compliance requirement issued by OFCOM. However, the recently published "EMF Pre-Assessed Equipment Configuration – Rotatable Beam Antennas for 50 MHz to 1.3 GHz" provides an easier route for most amateurs through the issue. The VHF Manager would like to thank all of those involved in the production of this work.
- The initial increase in VHF/UHF activity during the Covid pandemic seems to have settled down and the general level of traditional VHF/UHF amateur FM/DV/SSB voice and particularly CW activity continues to cause concern.

#### Outlook

The VHF Manager would yet again like to thank BATC and in particular Noel Matthews G8GTZ for the ongoing work in supporting the RSGB case made to Ofcom to renew the temporary VHF spectrum allocations at 70.5MHz and 146MHz and indeed some of the ground-breaking work by BATC members at 51MHz. The perceived value from such amateur experimentation should not be underestimated as it certainly has played a very significant part in UK access to experimental spectrum at 70.5-71.5MHz and 146-147MHz and in the amateur case for 50MHz at WRC-19. Capturing and highlighting innovation is key to ensuring a positive impression of the hobby with radio regulators across the world.

There have been a number of amateurs suggesting that permission to operate at 40MHz would be 'nice' and could possibly make some contribution to propagation studies. OFCOM's position is pretty clear; this part of the spectrum is not unused and is allocated for other purposes. The RSGB position, at this time, is that we are not looking to increase the VHF spectrum available to UK radio amateurs as we seek to defend other parts of the spectrum under significant threat.

Although the workload of defending amateur spectrum at VHF/UHF has not been particularly high in the past year there are concerns that the demand for spectrum in the UK by a range of commercial uses is likely to increase pressure on the 432MHz amateur allocation. Although there are currently no major amateur VHF/UHF issues in the run up to WRC-23, the VHF Manager is in contact with IARU colleagues monitoring the situation.

*John Regnault G4SWX, November 2021*