

Ofcom Amateur Radio Consultation: Updating the Amateur Radio Licensing Framework

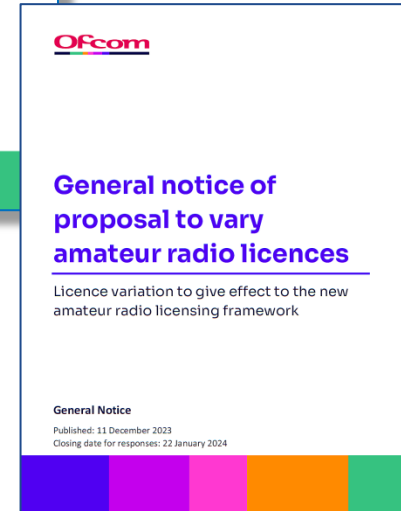
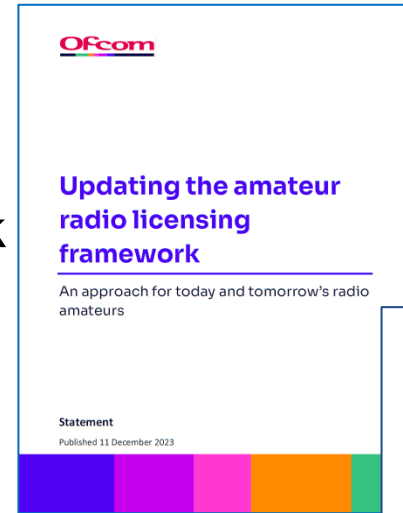


Outcomes Update

January 2024

Ofcom Consultation Update

- Ofcom Consultation ran from June to September 2023, covering both licence conditions and the wider policy framework
- Ofcom Statement, Summary and ~1400 responses published on 11 December
- A 'General Notice' period and implementation phases now follow...



NB: The General Notice has a deadline for comments of 5pm Monday 22 January

Ofcom Phased Implementation

Phase 1 (Licence variation required) – by end of February 2024

Allow third party supervised operation.

RSL use optional and allow wider use of 'E' for England.

Special RSL notification.

Call sign suffix provisions.

Increased transmit power.

Phase 2 (Licensing platform modification or other Ofcom action required) - we plan for this to be in 2024

New Intermediate M8 and M9 call sign prefix.

Restriction on the number of call signs.

Liberalisation of the use of the Special Event Station NoV.

Phase 3 (new licensing platform required) – we plan for this to be later in the 2024/25 financial year

Improvements to the online revalidation process.

Holding of a single personal licence and revocation of lower licence as a licensee progresses.

Choice of wider range of unused amateur call signs via the online portal.

Note: Phase-1 includes numerous other changes as part of the new licence terms

Changes vs Original Proposals

- **Call signs:** A period of two years before a call sign can be reissued or changed has been revised to five years (once Phase-3 occurs)
- **Foundation:** The proposal for 20 Watts has been revised to 25W, to better align with equipment
- **Microwaves:** Foundation Licensees will be able to use the 2.4 & 5GHz bands with 2W (was 1W)
- **Data Systems:** In addition to the new arrangements for Repeaters, Gateways and Beacons, a new 'Data Station' category of operation has been introduced, covering other use cases. These are also based on 5W / 25W erp levels
- **Schedule 2:** This has been thoroughly reconsidered and replaced. Ofcom will instead include these provisions in a new **Notice of Coordination**, covering unattended beacons and the process for coordination of repeaters with the CAA and MoD - in bands such as 70cm, 23cm etc.
- **Terms & Conditions:** Several areas of the draft licence have updated or amended wording in response to feedback, or where there were errors.

Ofcom: RSGB's next steps

Provisional Exam Syllabus v1.6 has been released for comment. This was based on the original Ofcom proposals to save time. Changes are focused on the Ofcom changes only. Feedback is welcome asap so it can be finalised.

RSGB 2024 Contests: The 2024 rules account for RSL use. The application process and terms for Short Contest Call (SCC) NoVs has been slightly updated.

RSGB: ETCC and **EMC/EMF** preparing service/advice updates

RSGB Spectrum Forum / Band Plans: Deferred to early 2024 to allow for Ofcom/IARU/WRC-23 outcomes. Initial changes being considered, but more may follow depending on General Notice period and Coordination Notice discussions

Opportunities: The new licence expands opportunities for amateur radio outreach, recruitment, and development and will feed into strategy development

Finally...

Remember:

- **Notice Period:**
Reply by 22 January 2024
- **Web shortcut:**
www.rsgb.org/licencereview

