



## RSGB Band Plans 2024

### Provisional Changes – Discussion & Notes

Band plans are nominally IARU derived but with UK tailoring. Having had little change in the past few years the influences on this occasion are:

- **HF** – the IARU changes have been deferred (but note 472k and 5MHz below)
- **VHF/UHF** – strongly influenced by Licence review and need to accommodate/segregate newer systems
- **Microwaves** - Better alignment and visibility for mmWave activity

Noting: That a further update may be needed mid-year as IARU and Primary User matters clarify

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#### Areas for Change

**472kHz** – update to remove licence note (as 472k terms greatly simplified by licence review)

**5MHz** – UK Beacons have closed, but change held pending further discussion with Ofcom/PU as we still seek WRC gaps. Draft licence/notice has some editorial errors on 5MHz

**70cm** – Has most of our capacity/usage but currently hampered by frequency clearance / coordination issues. Initial change:

**433-4 MHz** area to become more clearly based on 12.5kHz

- Reflects long-standing existing designation in IARU-R1 band plan
- Reflects existing NoVs by ETCC where 12.5k needed to obtain clearance and avoid interleaved primary users (which is also the case outside of 433/4)
- Will be clearer as an initial step for Ofcom/PU related discussions – which cause further updates if more pre-cleared channels are agreed (esp for 5W / 25W erp systems)

Note this does not preclude wider BW experiments.

Note as the Gateway definition is single frequency – In-band linked/co-sited gateways might be treated as repeaters

**432MHz narrowband** will be changing later to all-2.7kHz, as agreed at IARU-R1 Conference



**Note:** As 70cm (and 23cm) et al are subject to the new coordination process, change is limited at present even for low power systems – one approach may be pre-cleared channels

The initial draft Coordination document is considered:-

- a) Onerous for very low powers such as unattended 70cm mW hotspots and 5W erp systems
- b) Potentially ambiguous wrt unattended Gateway/Data Systems (esp the latter if >5W erp)

Thus it is likely to be the topic for further discussion.

## 144 MHz

- Designate the two reserved 'IARU' repeater pairs for adhoc 5W erp FM/DV/Data (ie mode-neutral use, but Tx in upper pair to be repeater compatible ) - fixed sites at this point
- 145.225 to be an extra Gateway channel FM/DV/Data 5Werp (Also Note-10/RAYNET usage) - compensated for by...
- 144.5-144.8 – to be come 12.5k spacing (With note re legacy 25k kit on adjacent ch?)
- Remember that Scarborough area has a 50km exclusion for unattended beacons

Crossband 144/430 impeded for unattended use by draft Coordination notice for 430-440MHz

## 70MHz

- Add info note re 70.5-71.5MHz NoVs
- Remember to remove PSK31 designation from IARU/UK band plan in future
- Encourage usage of 50/70MHz crossband as supported by modern radios
- Lack of mention by coordination notice implies more flexibility than previously – *tbc*

## Microwaves

**2.4/5GHz:** New access and revised 2W power welcome for Foundation opportunities.

Schedule Note - Foundation access is in 2.4GHz only – not 2.3 GHz as per Int/Full

**23cm:** No major change (yet) until CEPT/WRC consider decisions clarify. Also:-

- There is information available that new UK-PU usage will make greater use of the lower segment, so for example wideband FMATV inputs will need to be replaced by DATV and more careful planning and expanded use of outputs in 1300MHz+ may be needed
- No change in the 1298-1299 N.Ireland beacon restrictions despite RSGB request

**mmWave Changes** – to feature more visibly – based on UK Microwave Group input & CoAs

- 122GHz      122.256 / 122.400 (without saying which way round for 144MHz IF)
- 134GHz      134.256 / 134.400
- 241GHz      241.6 / 248.8 (+/- IF) to cover Secondary and Primary allocations



## Notes from Discussion (inc on wider Ofcom terms)

Ofcom/ETCC/PU considerations ongoing: Scope includes, pre-cleared 70cm channels & Callsign blocks (and club licences) to facilitate RAYNET groups/repeaters

ETCC new online planning tools/service for self-coordination/registration, revised guidance, expanded CTCSS usage/advice, website updates etc

Clarity needed on low power systems, gateways (inc hotspots) and data systems vs Coordination Notice (esp for 70cm)

The wider Beacon definition is distinct and may need guidance vs Gateway/Repeater/Data

144 and 430MHz - General agreement re expanded use of 12.5kHz raster and need for specific notes/guidance

Airborne usage will be initially handled by a general plan note - no specific spot freqs for now - although 144.8MHz APRS/telemetry noted as a likely to be a common application

Potential mid-year update (inc on 70cm narrowband segment) if we get further changes/clarity

No change to 5MHz band plan (despite beacon closure) at this point, BUT is pending outcome of latest representations regarding allocation amendments aimed at filling the 'ITU gaps' potentially in exchange for other segments. A few editorial issues in the frequency schedule to be addressed.

*Murray G6JYB, Spectrum Chair, Jan-2024*

### Background: Exam Syllabus

- 14MHz and 144MHz feature in Foundation exams handout/questions (144 has changes)
- 472kHz and 5MHz used for Full (472k will have far less content, and beware on 5MHz)

**Also:** Various other material needs to be reviewed to account for changes to licence/schedule