



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

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Dame Chi Onwurah MP
Chair
Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

07 November 2025

Dear Dame Chi,

I am writing to inform you and the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee of the publication of a government consultation on the proposed revocation of the Authorisation of Frequency Use for the Provision of Mobile Satellite Services (European Union) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/672).

Spectrum is the finite resource underpinning all wireless technologies, including mobile communications, satellite services, aviation systems and defence applications. It is important that the regulatory frameworks governing spectrum use are kept up to date and enable efficient and flexible management of this strategically important asset.

This consultation marks an important and necessary step in ensuring that the UK's spectrum regulatory framework remains fit for purpose as we approach the expiry of the current 2 GHz MSS licences on 13 May 2027. This spectrum is currently licensed exclusively to two operators (Viasat and Echostar) under a framework originally established through EU legislation and retained in UK law following EU exit.

The 2010 Regulations include offence provisions that would remain in force unless explicitly revoked. Without revocation, it would be unlawful for any entity, including the current licensees, to transmit in the band after 13 May 2027. This would unnecessarily constrain future use of the band and limit Ofcom's ability to authorise services in the band in line with its duties under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006.

Revoking the Regulations will not affect the rights of current licence holders, which remain valid until May 2027. Instead, it will provide legal clarity and enable Ofcom to manage future use of the band flexibly and efficiently. This is particularly important given the evolving satellite communications landscape and the increasing demand for spectrum to support innovation and connectivity.

The consultation seeks views on the government's proposal to revoke the 2010 Regulations and invites stakeholders to comment on whether any provisions should be preserved or restated in domestic law. It also outlines the next steps, including the government's intention to proceed with revocation via secondary legislation, subject to the outcome of the consultation.

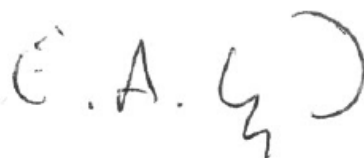
This consultation complements Ofcom's ongoing work to determine the future use of the 2 GHz MSS band. Following its recent Call for Input, Ofcom intends to consult on a proposed approach next year, with a final decision to follow thereafter. It is important that the regulatory

framework enables Ofcom to carry out this process in accordance with its duties and responsibilities under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006.

My officials will continue to work closely with Ofcom and other stakeholders to ensure that the revocation process supports future spectrum planning and enables access to this band for a range of potential users and services.

I will place a copy of this letter in the libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E.A. Lloyd' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Liz Lloyd CBE
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the
Department for Science, Innovation