



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Briefing for Spectrum Policy Forum on

Spectrum Statement
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Trends in spectrum use

We know that demand for spectrum will continue to grow. Across sectors, private and public, an expanding range of spectrum applications contributing to changing demand for spectrum, with scarcity in some frequency bands and increasing use of higher frequencies.

Trends include:

- Continuing rapid growth of mobile data
- Wi-Fi use with full fibre
- More enterprise applications via public and private networks
- Changing public sector and defence requirements
- New satellite networks and potential terrestrial / non terrestrial integration

More efficient use of spectrum and better coordination across public and private sector use is a priority **to ensure that spectrum is not a limiting factor** on the UK's economic and societal potential.

Strategic importance of spectrum

Spectrum is a strategic national asset critical to addressing major upcoming policy challenges:

- digital connectivity
- future of broadcasting
- energy transition
- National Space Strategy
- Integrated Review

This statement is intended to ensure that, across government, we have the right policy framework in place to maximise the overall value of spectrum use to the UK, while supporting wider policy objectives.

It sets out a **new strategic vision and principles for spectrum policy**, with a focus on innovation in the use and management of spectrum.

It also outlines the **arrangements in place to support effective cross-government working and engagement with Ofcom** on spectrum matters.

Strategic vision

Enhancing our use of spectrum across public & private sectors is critical to delivering our mission for UK at the forefront of global scientific and technological advancement, supporting research, innovation and growth while protecting critical services like defence and climate science.

We do not believe that a flat target to increase the overall value of spectrum will drive overall value maximisation, and a more progressive vision is called for.

A renewed focus on innovation in wireless technology, enhanced sharing of spectrum, expanding the frontiers of usable spectrum, advanced spectrum management techniques, improved interference management and resilience **will enable us to significantly improve spectrum availability, thereby creating greater opportunities for growth and societal benefits.**

The UK has been a pioneer in innovative spectrum management and we want this to continue

Principles for spectrum policy

- Spectrum is a strategic asset and an important enabler for a range of government policy objectives.
- Spectrum management should promote innovation and investment alongside consumer-focused outcomes.
- Spectrum management should ensure efficient and optimum use and be linked to actual usage with users empowered/ incentivised to make decisions where appropriate.
- Spectrum management should itself take best advantage of innovation as well as supporting innovation in the services which use spectrum.

Priority actions identified in the Statement

- Working with Ofcom to **enhance shared use of spectrum** eg. automated / dynamic licensing
- **Reviewing the use of market-based mechanisms** (e.g. licence fees) to understand the extent to which they may need to evolve to adapt to changing market conditions and support a strong investment environment
- **Keeping the legal framework for spectrum management under review** to ensure it is fit for purpose and Ofcom has the tools it needs to adopt innovative approaches
- Developing a **new framework for public sector spectrum access** and improving sharing between public and private sector spectrum users
- Finding a solution for **future energy network's comms/spectrum requirements**
- Supporting our **space sector and defence ambitions**
- **Maximising influence at the upcoming World Radiocommunications Conference**

Thank you