

Shared and Local Access update

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Ofcom's spectrum strategy

- On 19 July 2021 we published our [spectrum strategy](#) for the 2020s.
- Our spectrum management vision to enable growth and innovation, centred around four key objectives.

Our spectrum management vision



Continued improvements in the wireless communications used by everyone, wherever and whenever they use them.



Businesses, public sector and other organisations with specialised requirements to be able to access the right wireless communication or spectrum options for them.



Increased flexibility in spectrum use to support innovation, with appropriate assurances for continued use.



Sustained improvements in the efficiency of spectrum use.

Areas of increased focus for the next decade



1. Supporting wireless innovation

- Making more spectrum available for innovation before its long-term future use is certain
- Working to support innovation in new wireless technologies, inc by influencing international standards & tech conditions so they're flexible enough to support new uses
- Expanding our work to understand, assist and inform the broad range of organisations who may benefit from wireless technologies in the future.



2. Licensing to fit local and national services

- Considering further options for **localised spectrum access** when authorising new access to spectrum



3. Promoting spectrum sharing

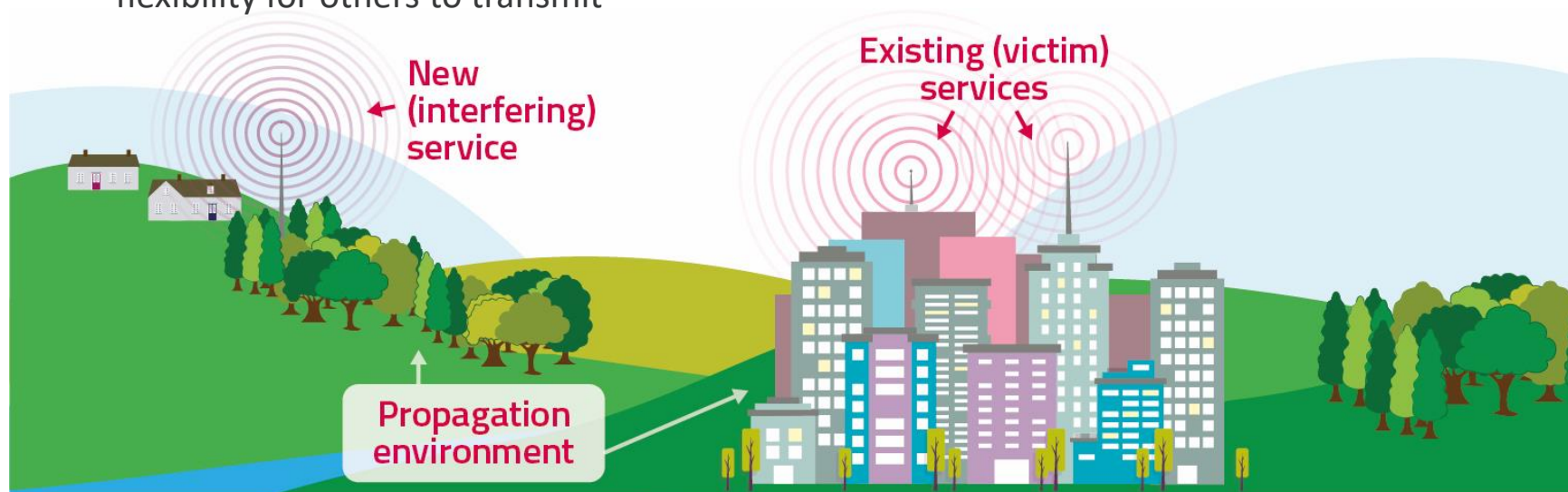
- Use of better data and more sophisticated analysis when assessing the conditions for sharing
- Wireless systems to be more resilient to interference from their neighbours
- An efficient balance between the level of interference protection given to one service, and flexibility for others to transmit

Promoting spectrum sharing

Encouraging users to share access to spectrum with others. As innovation stimulates greater demand for limited spectrum resource, spectrum sharing becomes even more important.

We will encourage:

- Use of **better data** and **more sophisticated analysis** when assessing the conditions for sharing
- Wireless systems to be **more resilient** to interference from their neighbours;
- An **efficient balance** between the level of interference protection given to one service and flexibility for others to transmit



Shared and Local Access background

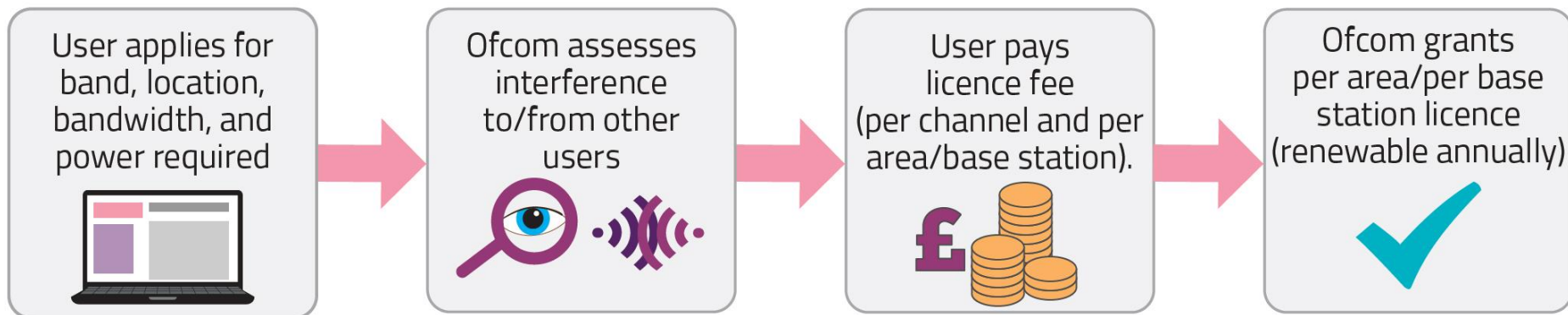
- In July 2019 Ofcom announced two new approaches for accessing spectrum suitable for mobile deployments.

Shared Access licence	Local Access licence
1781.7-1785 MHz paired with 1876.7-1880 MHz, 2390-2400 MHz, 3.8-4.2 GHz and 24.25-26.65 GHz.	All licensed spectrum bands assigned to MNOs (700MHz, 800MHz, 900MHz, 1400MHz, 1800MHz, 2350-2390MHz, 2.6 GHz, 3.4-3.8 GHz)
Available on a 1 st come 1 st served basis in two variants – low and medium power.	Requires coordination with incumbent MNO.
Licence fee £80 per 10 MHz per year. 26 GHz is £80 per 100 MHz.	£950 one-off payment for fixed term licence (3 year term unless alternative duration agreed with MNO).

- Approach struck a balance between getting the spectrum in the hands of innovators quickly whilst still ensuring sufficient protection at a reasonable cost.

We developed an authorisation approach for Shared Access licences on a first- come-first-served basis

- Users can choose either a low power area licence or a medium power base station licence (rural locations only)
- Simple licence process to access spectrum



- Process in place to allow exceptions to our licensing rules in certain circumstances.
- Licences have been available since December 2019.

Provided a way to access licensed mobile spectrum via Local Access licensing

- We put in place a process for new users to access licensed mobile spectrum in locations where we agree this would not adversely impact the incumbent licensee's current or planned use of the spectrum.
- Process enables access to a local area where the spectrum is not being used and has no planned use in the near term.



Licence volumes

- As of 24 August we have on issue 1235* Shared Access held by over held by 51 different companies.

Shared Access	Low Power	Medium Power
1800 MHz	853*	94
2.3 GHz	31	
3.8-4.2 GHz	68	188
26 GHz	1	

- Issued 18 Local Access licences to 5 different companies.

Local Access	Licences issued
1800 MHz	1
2.6 GHz	17

* Includes 765 legacy deployments from previous Concurrent Spectrum Access licence

Initial findings and policy update

- Process accommodates most use case scenarios we have encountered so far.
- Where our Shared Access assignment rules prevent deployments we can consider exceptions to these rules.
- Continuing with work looking at an automated assignment approach for Shared Access licences.
- Local Access licensing process continues to develop but given its nature will likely be a manual process for the foreseeable future.
- European Radio Spectrum Policy Group and the European Commission now looking at the use of 3.8-4.2 GHz for low/medium local vertical applications.
- Considering whether we can use the Shared Access licensing approach to enable sharing of other bands in the future.

Thank you