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Spectrum Statement and Wireless Infrastructure Strategy



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Policy paper

Spectrum statement

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UK WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

April 2023

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology



Stakeholder feedback

We used stakeholder feedback, gathered through our WIS Call for Evidence, the 5GTT projects, and the SPF's report to get a picture of users' experiences of the Ofcom spectrum sharing framework

- Users generally very supportive and welcoming of Ofcom's 2019 framework
- Licence application process is time consuming and resource intensive.
- The lack of transparency with regard to the availability of particular frequencies results in wasted applications for unavailable spectrum.
- A number of technical barriers identified, including:
 - restrictions on the maximum permissible height of antennas
 - restrictions on maximum permissible power levels at a specific location
 - the assumption of the use of omni-directional antennas
- Calls for the introduction of automation for SAL licence applications
- Calls for the introduction of Dynamic Spectrum Access (DSA) across SALs

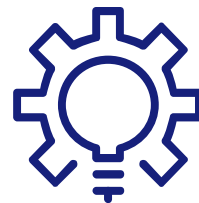




Spectrum Statement and WIS

In the Spectrum Statement and Wireless Infrastructure Strategy, we highlighted Ofcom's spectrum sandboxes, and planned introduction of automation of spectrum licences. We also noted a number of actions for Ofcom and government to consider.

- We asked Ofcom to explore options to **accelerate the planned introduction of licensing automation in the SAL bands specifically.**
- We highlighted that **government remains committed to the timely introduction of DSA** where appropriate.
- **We asked Ofcom to prioritise giving consideration to the introduction of DSA in SAL bands.**
- We committed to continuing to engage with Ofcom **to develop a definition of DSA for the UK that is suited to industry's needs and the government's strategic aims for wireless infrastructure.**
- We agreed with Ofcom that it would be **valuable for SPF to establish a regular industry forum** to consider aspects of the sharing framework and whether they are working as intended.





The UK's 6G Strategy





The UK's 6G Vision: Spectrum Access

- **Spectrum should be harmonised** in terms of frequency ranges and technical conditions on a regional and global basis wherever possible
- 6G is likely to require a combination of **low, mid and upper spectrum bands using both existing and new frequency bands**
- **A range of spectrum access mechanisms** should be considered to help realise the varied deployment models likely to characterise 6G
- To provide flexibility and efficient use of spectrum, **automated means for supporting sharing which varies by time, location, and frequency, driven by databases setting acceptable sharing configurations** should also be core to 6G's development.

