

# BT Group



# Shared access spectrum

- Practical experience

Chris Cheeseman

Principal, Spectrum Policy



# Shared access can work well for some scenarios

We have made limited use of shared access licences to date, but see these as a good solution in some scenarios. Licensing timescales remain a challenge, especially where the “exceptions process” is needed

- BT Onephone has uses 1800 MHz low power shared spectrum and remains static at 684 licences (pre-2020 so not shown on chart). BT also uses the 3.8-4.2 GHz licences in some industrial deployments.
- Our analysis of Ofcom’s Shared Access licence data for all licensees shows that initial growth has begun to level off in the last year, only 3.8-4.2 GHz Medium power shows any growth.
  - Unclear if demand has dropped or coordination more difficult?
- Our experience is that the Low/Medium power restriction for Urban/Rural zones licences can be an issue – but the exceptions process can allow properly justified cases to proceed. Low power licences can be too low power for available equipment and use cases.
- Licence decision timescales can be problematic – hopefully Ofcom’s planned new system in 2024 will solve this for standard applications and exception cases will be adequately resourced.
- In future, use of more detailed coordination data (e.g. antenna pattern/pointing) and voluntary synchronisation with existing deployments would help maximise coordination successes.

