



SPF Cluster 3

# Shared Access Licence (SAL) Industry Forum

22 November 2022

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# Introduction

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- Builds on Cluster 3 work on sharing from 1 year ago
- Requirement for a neutral, stakeholder and government forum and information hub on the spectrum sharing landscape
- Initially the activity will focus on the band 3.8-4.2 GHz
- Provide an opportunity for identifying key issues and barriers encountered by existing and prospective spectrum users when accessing shared spectrum
- Monitor progress, and explore the implications of potential changes to policies and processes that affect involved stakeholders
- Develop reports summarising key discussion points and providing an overview of findings and actions

# January 2022 Report Recommendations

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1. DCMS / Ofcom should continue to develop understanding of communications use cases that might require shared spectrum (especially but not exclusively based on 5G) through feedback on Testbeds and Trials and ongoing dialogue with industry and others.
2. There should be an increased focus on facilitating solutions for provision of indoor network capability and the authorisation regimes required to support these. (e.g. streamlining the Shared Access Licence application process, possible light licensing or general authorisation of low power 26 GHz indoors if that would be compatible with higher power licensed 26 GHz systems).
3. Concerns about neutral host solutions suggest that Ofcom should study industry concerns and provide greater clarity on regulatory and licensing issues.
4. Ofcom should publish a scope and implementation timetable for automation of shared licence applications. Also KPIs should be developed for the application process to provide greater commercial certainty to licence applicants.
5. Ofcom should address and provide solutions to the issues raised in Section 2.2 on technical matters and restrictions applied to licences.
6. DCMS should evaluate the merits of the three approaches emerging from the workshops, the counterfactual of the existing Ofcom's SAL approach and research on the introduction of DSA to determine the best approach (i.e. just move to DSA, follow a pragmatic roadmap, no need for DSA).

# Key technical issues

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- Automation of SAL applications and improvements to application procedures (including time to process)
- Protection criteria for other services (too restrictive?)
- Options for siting masts in relation to existing sites and maximum permissible height of antennas
- Maximum permissible power levels
- Use of omni-directional antennas vs use of multi-sector cells, directional antennas, beam forming, etc
- Use of leaky feeder systems at some locations
- Handling of indoor use (LP or VLP options)