

Matt Warman MP
Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries
100 Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1A 2BQ

21st August 2019

Dear Minister,

Industry Advice – Principles for Release of 26GHz 5G Pioneer Band

As the industry voice of spectrum users in the UK, the SPF exists to address strategic spectrum issues and to provide advice to Government and Ofcom on industry and user views around key spectrum policy issues. With over 240 members drawn from mobile and broadcasting, space and transport, equipment manufacturers and public services, the SPF comprises companies and organisations with an interest in using spectrum effectively for diverse applications.

I write now as the Chair of the SPF to welcome you to your post and to present two documents in response to a recent request by your officials. The request sought an industry view on high level principles for the release of the third 5G Pioneer Band at 26 Gigahertz. This relates to an EECC requirement for 1 x GHz of that spectrum to be released by Spring 2020. The documents were produced following a workshop and discussions organised by the Spectrum Policy Forum (SPF). They reflect the views of those who contributed, who included representatives from all four UK Mobile Network Operators, Samsung and Qualcomm, as well as others with an interest. They therefore represent a broad industry view around the issue. The two documents are:

- 'A 7 Point Response to a DCMS Request for Industry Advice on the High-Level Principles to be Applied to the Release of 5G Pioneer Band at 26GHz', and;
- 'A Report on the Principles for the Release of the 3rd 5G Pioneer Band at 26GHz and Shared Access Within the Band'. The report also describes a potential model for release of subsequent mobile bands above 26GHz.

Timing is clearly important on this subject and in order to ensure our advice is offered in a timely fashion we haven't undertaken our normal detailed review leading to formal Steering Board endorsement. In view of the unusual degree of consensus between those who participated I am nevertheless happy to release the documents as informal SPF advice to your Department. The unanimity of view among the MNOs on this topic is particularly noteworthy – it may be unique – and through this letter I'd like to extend my thanks to them, to Professor Stephen Temple who led the work, and to all those who contributed. I should add the minor caveat that more detailed work is required, and we will be happy to contribute to

this with your Department's support. But for the moment the two main messages are (1) the need for Ofcom to release the 26 GHz band next year and (2) to seize the opportunity to do so in line with your policy of promoting spectrum sharing innovation. Our document advances some particularly bold innovations that have the potential to make the UK a leader in 5G network data speeds beyond dense urban areas.

I'm copying this letter and the documents to Sharon White and Philip Marnick in Ofcom and it will also be published on the SPF website shortly. I'd welcome the opportunity to discuss the work with you at some point, as well as other topics that we would be happy to work on with your officials in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Meyer', with a small flourish at the end.

David Meyer
Chair, UK Spectrum Policy Forum