

Ofcom Consultation

British Entertainment Industry Radio Group (BEIRG)

Fixed wireless spectrum strategy

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A note on 1350-1400 MHz fixed wireless spectrum

In light of the 700 MHz clearance, BEIRG has repeatedly pointed out to Ofcom UK that audio PMSE access to the 1350-1400 MHz band, in addition to the three sub-bands between 960 and 1164 MHz, could go a long way to mitigating the loss of PMSE access to the 700 MHz band as well as the resulting severe disruption of the 500 & 600MHz bands. ECC REC 70-03 and ECC REC 25-10 both now list the 1350-1400 MHz band as suitable for audio PMSE deployment. Indeed, Germany and Austria have opened the band to audio PMSE. Other CEPT administrations are also seriously considering opening up the band, notably France. Regrettably, Ofcom UK does not currently share the same progressive approach to the band as other CEPT administrations, and BEIRG encourages Ofcom UK to reconsider their approach in order to promote pan-European harmony in this area of spectrum and to provide support to a vital part of the UK's creative industries.

The British Entertainment Industry Radio Group (BEIRG) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that works for the benefit of all those who produce, distribute and ultimately consume content made using radio spectrum in the UK. Venues and productions that depend on radio spectrum include TV, film, sport, theatre, churches, schools, live music, newsgathering, political and corporate events, and many others. BEIRG campaigns for the maintenance of 'Programme Making and Special Events' (PMSE) access to sufficient quantity of interference-free spectrum for use by wireless production tools such as wireless microphones and wireless in-ear monitor (IEM) systems.

As well as being vital in producing live content, wireless PMSE technologies play a key role in helping to improve security and safety levels within the entertainment industry and other sectors. Their benefits include improving the management of electrical safety, the reduction of noise levels, the development of safety in communications and reducing trip hazards as well as providing an essential tool for the security orientated services. Wireless equipment and the spectrum it operates in are now crucial to the British entertainment industry.

BEIRG is a member of the Association of Professional Wireless Production Technologies (APWPT)¹, which promotes on an international level the efficient and demand-driven provision and use of production frequencies for professional event productions, as well as safeguarding such production frequencies for the users on the long run.

¹ <http://www.apwpt.org/>