

Ofcom Consultation

British Entertainment Industry Radio Group (BEIRG)

Notice of proposed variation of Everything Everywhere's 1800MHz spectrum licences to allow use of LTE and WiMAX technologies

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Response

The British Entertainment Radio Group (BEIRG) is a non-profit making organisation which represents users of radio spectrum in the Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) sector. BEIRG's members are involved in the production of all areas of television content and live performance, at national, regional and local level.

PMSE use is currently permitted in the 1785MHz-1800MHz band and JFMG are set up to license use of the band. This band is also de-regulated or licence exempt for many European countries. LTE and WiMax operations in Everything Everywhere's 1800MHz spectrum allocation must only be allowed if they will not interfere with PMSE operations in the middle of this band (1785-1800MHz).

With ongoing discussions around the PMSE sectors access to UHF spectrum, this band is becoming increasingly important for wireless microphone operators. With increasing pressure on the future of existing UHF spectrum that is available to PMSE, the loss of 790 – 862 MHz, continued uncertainty over the long term availability of the 550-606MHz band, and the potential interference in interleaved spectrum from white space devices, it is important that the 1785-1800MHz band is not rendered unusable by LTE/WiMAX services in neighbouring bands.

The draft licence included in the consultation states that the licensee "must not cause undue interference to other spectrum users". BEIRG supports this, and is pleased to see that the potential impact on PMSE is considered in the annexes. We are concerned that there is a greater chance of interference from LTE/WiMAX than the services operating in the band at present, and would caution Ofcom to only approve this variation if they are certain no interference will be caused to neighbouring services.