Notice of proposal to make the Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2022

Implementing Ofcom's decision to extend the range of static indoor mobile repeaters available for people to self-install without a licence

Notice of proposal to make the Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2022 – Welsh overview

CONSULTATION:

Publication Date: 24 March 2022
Closing Date for Responses: 25 April 2022

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1. Overview

This consultation document concerns Ofcom's proposal to make new regulations by statutory instrument. These regulations would implement Ofcom's decision, published in November 2021 (the "**2021 Repeaters Statement**")[1], to extend the range of mobile repeater devices that can be self-installed without a licence.

We are also proposing in this consultation to make the regulations technology-neutral, and therefore to allow for the licence-exempt use of mobile repeater devices which amplify signals other than those carried on 2G, 3G and 4G networks (including, for example, 5G signals).

Mobile repeater devices can boost the signal between a mobile network operator's base station and a mobile handset. Most consumers should not need to use such a device, particularly as mobile coverage is always improving; with investment in better infrastructure and technology. However, accessing a mobile signal within their own home can be troublesome for some people, particularly if they live towards the edge of a mobile network's coverage. This is because mobile signal levels reduce further as they enter buildings. There is a range of options open to consumers to resolve this issue, including mobile repeater devices, and anyone experiencing this problem may wish to seek advice from their network operator in the first instance.

What we are proposing – in brief

We are consulting on draft regulations (the Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2022 (the "**Proposed Regulations**"). These would revoke and replace the current licence exemption rules for mobile repeaters. The Proposed Regulations would implement the decisions made in the 2021 Repeaters Statement, by extending the licence exemption criteria to cover devices that operate on the frequencies of more than one mobile operator. In particular, they would allow for the use of provider-specific and multi-operator repeaters, provided that they meet certain technical requirements.

We are also proposing to make the Proposed Regulations technology-neutral, and therefore to not confine the scope of the licence exemption to 2G, 3G and 4G mobile repeater devices.

By introducing these changes, Ofcom hopes to support the provision of a wider choice of repeater devices to help consumers address their indoor coverage problems.

This is a statutory consultation. We are inviting comments both on whether the Proposed Regulations correctly implement our decision in the 2021 Repeaters Statement, and on our proposal to make the Proposed Regulations technology-neutral. Any comments should be provided by 5pm on 25 April 2022.

[1] Statement: Mobile phone repeaters - Ofcom

2. Notice

Notice of Proposals

2.1 This Notice is given in accordance with sections 122(4) and (5) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (the "**2006 Act**") and covers a proposal to make a statutory instrument (the "**Proposed Regulations**").

2.2 The Proposed Regulations set out how we are minded to implement Ofcom's decision, published in November 2021, to extend the range of mobile repeater devices that can be self-installed without a licence (the "**2021 Repeaters Statement**").[2]

2.3 In particular, we are proposing to revoke the Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2018[3] (the "**2018 Regulations**") and replace them with the Proposed Regulations. We are also provisionally minded to make the Proposed Regulations technology-neutral and are also seeking comments on this as part of this consultation.

The Proposed Regulations

2.4 A copy of the Proposed Regulations can be found in Annex A1.

Comments and representations

2.5 We are inviting comments on:

a) whether the Proposed Regulations correctly implement our decision in the 2021 Repeaters Statement; and

b) our proposal to make the Proposed Regulations technology-neutral (we discuss this in more detail from paragraph [3.21] below.

2.6 Comments are invited by 5pm on 25 April 2022.

2.7 We are not inviting comments on the substance of Ofcom's 2021 Repeaters Statement (which was the subject of previous consultation, as set out on our website). Subject to our consideration of responses, we intend to bring the new Regulations into force in June 2022.

Structure of this consultation

2.8 The remainder of this consultation document is structured as follows:

- **Section 3** provides some background to the Proposed Regulations. This includes a summary of:
  - the relevant statutory framework;

[2] The 2021 Repeaters Statement is available at: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0032/227579/statement-mobile-phone-repeaters.pdf

[3] S.I. 2018/339, as amended by S.I. 2019/1450. This is available at The Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2018 (legislation.gov.uk).

  - the purpose of mobile phone repeaters; and
  - Ofcom's previous decisions in relation to the use of mobile phone repeaters without a licence (including the 2021 Repeaters Statement).

  In Section 3, we also explain why we think, taking account of our statutory duties, that it is appropriate to make the Proposed Regulations technology-neutral.

- **Section 4** sets out the general effects of the Proposed Regulations.

- **Annex A1** contains a draft of the Proposed Regulations. The Proposed Regulations set out in full the terms, provisions and limitations of the licence exemption for mobile phone repeaters.

- **Annex A2** contains an Interface Requirement for provider-specific mobile phone repeaters.

- **Annex A3** contains an Interface Requirement for multi-operator mobile phone repeaters.

- **Annexes A4** to **A6** contain details of Ofcom's consultation processes.

3. Background to the Proposed Regulations

Relevant statutory framework

3.1 Under section 8(1) of the 2006 Act, it is unlawful to establish or use a wireless telegraphy station or install or use wireless telegraphy apparatus except under and in accordance with a wireless telegraphy licence granted under the 2006 Act.

3.2 Under section 8(3) of the 2006 Act, Ofcom may make regulations exempting from the licensing requirements under section 8(1) the establishment, installation or use of wireless telegraphy stations or wireless telegraphy apparatus of such classes or description as may be specified in the regulations, either absolutely or subject to such terms, provisions and limitations as may be specified.

3.3 Under section 8(4) of the 2006 Act, we must make regulations to exempt equipment if its installation or use is not likely to:

a) involve undue interference with wireless telegraphy;

b) have an adverse effect on technical quality of service;

c) lead to inefficient use of the part of the electromagnetic spectrum available for wireless telegraphy;

d) endanger safety of life;

e) prejudice the promotion of social, regional or territorial cohesion; or

f) prejudice the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity and media pluralism.

3.4 In accordance with the requirements of section 8(3B) of the 2006 Act, the terms, provisions and limitations specified in the regulations must be:

a) objectively justifiable in relation to the wireless telegraphy stations or wireless telegraphy apparatus to which they relate;

b) not such as to discriminate unduly against particular persons or against a particular description of persons;

c) proportionate to what they are intended to achieve; and

d) transparent in relation to what they are intended to achieve.

3.5 We make exemption regulations by means of a statutory instrument. Before making any such regulations, we are required by section 122(4) of the 2006 Act to give statutory notice of our proposal to do so. Under section 122(5), such notice must state that we propose to make the regulations in question, set out their general effects, specify an address from which a copy of the proposed regulations or order may be obtained, and specify a time period of at least one month during which any representations with respect to the proposal must be made to us.

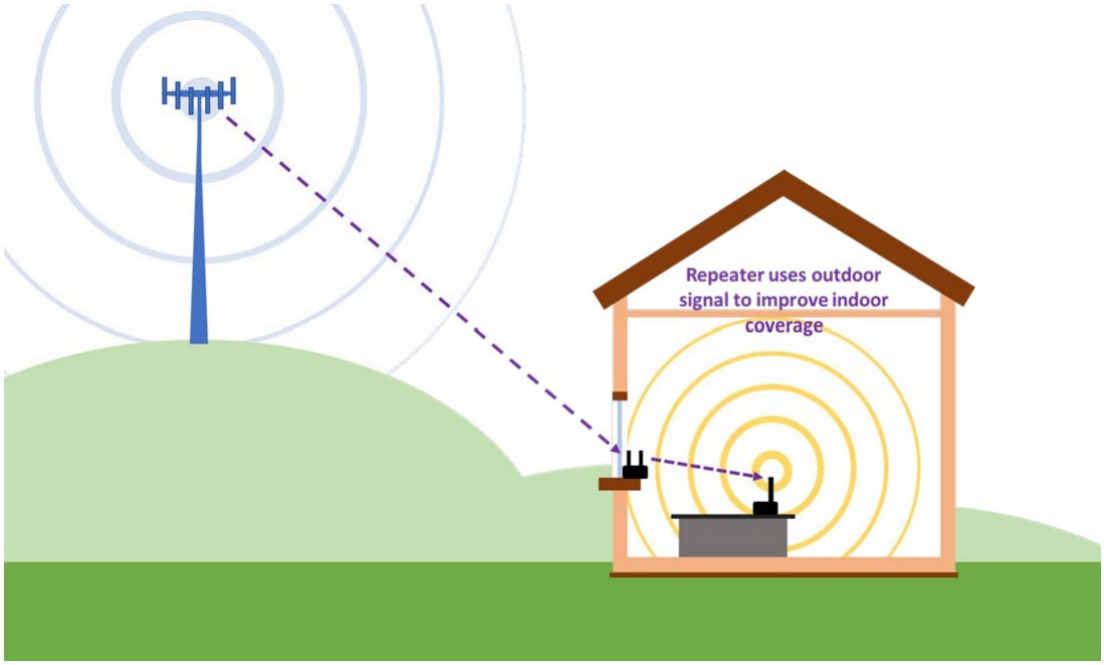
3.6 As explained above, this consultation document is a notice under sections 122(4) and (5) of the 2006 Act.

What is a mobile repeater?

3.7 Mobile coverage is always improving, with investment in better infrastructure and technology. But some people still struggle with poor quality indoor signals and inadequate coverage. People expect to be able to access their mobile networks indoors; easily communicate with friends and family; access the internet; smoothly conduct business; deliver entertainment; operate smart devices; and much more. One potential solution to this problem is to use a device called a mobile phone repeater. These devices can help improve indoor coverage by boosting and retransmitting the available outdoor mobile signal indoors.

3.8 Typically, a repeater unit might be located in a window with a clear view to the base station. The unit will then either retransmit the outdoor mobile signal directly round the house/building or, in some cases, will relay the mobile signal to a separate unit deeper within the house/building from where it will be retransmitted (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Use of a mobile repeater to boots the mobile signal indoors



Ofcom's previous decisions on mobile repeaters

3.9 Up until 2018, the use of mobile repeaters was illegal in the UK unless deployed by a licensed mobile network operator ("**MNO**"). The requirement for a licence was applied because of the risk that poorly designed repeaters would cause harmful interference to the mobile phone networks and other services.

3.10 However, after carrying out technical studies we came up with conditions that would allow the use of self-installed mobile repeaters without them being likely to cause interference to the mobile networks and other spectrum users. In April 2018, we therefore made the 2018 Regulations. These enabled people and businesses to install and use certain low power indoor static mobile phone repeaters without the need to get a licence from Ofcom,

provided that they met certain technical requirements.[4] The 2018 Regulations included a requirement that devices only boosted the signal of one MNO at any one time (we refer to these devices as 'single operator' repeaters).

3.11 Following our exemption of single operator repeaters in 2018, we continued to consider whether there are any ways that we could improve our approach to static mobile phone repeaters for indoor use and, in particular, whether we could remove any unnecessary restrictions. Our technical analysis demonstrated that it would be possible to extend the range of repeaters that could be installed and used on a licence exempt basis, without them being likely to cause undue interference to the mobile phone networks or other spectrum users.

3.12 In May 2021, we therefore consulted on changes to the scope of the licence exemption[5] and on 4 November 2021, we published the 2021 Repeaters Statement. This set out our decision to extend the range of static repeaters available for people to buy and install themselves without a licence - provided they met certain technical requirements.

3.13 In particular, we decided in the 2021 Repeaters Statement to extend the current licence exemption provisions to allow for the use of two additional types of static indoor repeater:

a) provider-specific repeaters; and

b) multi-operator repeaters.

3.14 Provider-specific repeaters will be able to repeat the signal of one or more MNO at any one time, individually setting the level of amplification for each MNO's signals. Multi-operator repeaters will be able to amplify the signal of more than one MNO at the same time but, unlike provider-specific repeaters, any such amplification would be by the same level and would not be calculated individually for each MNO.

Implementing the 2021 Repeaters Statement

3.15 The position of Northern Ireland as a continuing part of the EU single market means we notified the European Commission of the draft technical requirements included in the Proposed Regulations on 9 November 2021. The notification period ended on 10 February 2022, giving the European Commission and individual Member States three months to comment. We received no comments.

3.16 We are now therefore proposing to make the Proposed Regulations in order to implement the 2021 Repeaters Statement.

3.17 In order to provide greater clarity to stakeholders regarding the precise scope of the licence exemption for static indoor repeaters, we are minded to include the full detail of the terms, provisions and limitations of the exemption in the Proposed Regulations (and to not rely upon the use of interface requirements). This differs from our approach in the

[4] For completeness, we note that the 2018 Regulations also made the use of certain in-vehicle repeaters licence exempt. As discussed at paragraph 4.9 below, we are not proposing any changes to the scope of the in-vehicle licence exemption in the Proposed Regulations.

[5] Our consultation is available at: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0023/219245/mobile-phone-repeaters-condoc-2021.pdf

2018 Regulations, where most of the detailed technical requirements were included in associated interface requirements (in particular, the requirements applicable to single operator repeaters were set out in IR 2102.1).[6]

3.18 In so doing, we are proposing to define a number of terms which, to date, have not been defined (such as, for example, power spectral density, oscillation and system noise figure). Our intention is not to change the substance of the minimum requirements set out in our 2021 Repeaters Statement, but instead to provide greater clarity and transparency to stakeholders.

3.19 We are also proposing to make some clarificatory modifications to the draft technical requirements included in our 2021 Repeaters Statement. In particular:

a) whilst we were clear in our 2017 statement on mobile phone repeaters[7] that licence-exempt repeaters must detect when they go into oscillation and shut themselves down swiftly to prevent those effects, we are concerned that IR 2102.1 was not as clear as it should have been on this point (it referred to repeaters taking measures to "mitigate" oscillation). The Proposed Regulations therefore make clear that, where oscillations are detected by a mobile repeater, it must take measures to "stop" any oscillations from occurring;[8] and

b) we are proposing to make clear that, where measures are taken by a mobile repeater to stop oscillation, that device does not necessarily have to be restarted. We recognise that it is the measures taken by a repeater to stop oscillation (for example, automatic gain reduction) which are important in order to prevent undue interference on mobile networks; and are concerned that any requirement that repeaters restart after they have implemented such measures could be disproportionate (and not in line with our policy intention). We note however that we are not proposing a change to the requirement that – where oscillation is detected five times – a repeater must cease transmitting and can only resume operation if it is manually reset.[9]

3.20 Notwithstanding our proposal to implement the full detail of the wider exemption regime into the Proposed Regulations, we appreciate that some stakeholders may be accustomed to the format and style of the IRs. To aid readers, we intend to therefore also publish the minimum technical requirements for mobile repeaters in the format of Interface Requirements alongside the final Regulations. Drafts of these Interface Requirements are in Annexes A2 and A3. Readers should be advised that, in the case of any inconsistency between the Interface Requirements and the final Regulations, the Regulations would take precedence.

[6] See, in particular, Interface Requirement 2102 which is available at: UK Interface Requirement 2102 (ofcom.org.uk). IR 2102.1 sets out the minimum requirements for single operator static mobile phone repeaters for indoor use. IR 2102.2 sets out the minimum requirements for in-vehicle mobile phone repeaters.
[7] Repeaters Statement 2017 (ofcom.org.uk)
[8] See, in particular, regulation 7(4) of the Proposed Regulations.
[9] See, in particular, regulations 7(4) and 7(5) of the Proposed Regulations. These clarificatory changes have also been made to the draft Interface Requirements at Annexes 2 and 3.

Proposal to make the licence-exemption technology neutral

3.21 We are also proposing as part of this consultation document to make the Proposed Regulations technology-neutral and, in particular, to allow (on a licence-exempt basis) the use of mobile repeaters which repeat signals other than 2G, 3G and 4G signals. This would make the use of 5G repeaters, for example, licence exempt – provided that they meet the technical requirements in the Proposed Regulations (including that they operate on the relevant uplink and downlink frequencies). We explain our provisional view, including the impact of this proposal, below.

3.22 The 2018 Regulations defined a "mobile repeater device" as "*a wireless telegraphy station or wireless telegraphy apparatus which amplifies the radio signals carried over a GSM system, a LTE system, a UMTS system or a WiMAX system*"[10]. This restricts the scope of the existing licence exemption to repeater devices which were amplifying a 2G, 3G or 4G mobile signal.

3.23 However, we are mindful that mobile operators have started to roll out their 5G mobile networks, and are concerned that retaining this narrow definition of a mobile repeater device will prevent the Proposed Regulations from being sufficiently future-proof and will impose a disproportionate restriction on the use of licence-exempt repeaters. This would adversely impact those consumers that suffer from poor 5G mobile coverage at home.

3.24 With this in mind, and taking account of our statutory duties, we are minded to make the Proposed Regulations technology-neutral. In particular, to:

a) modify the definition of mobile repeater device so that it is not limited to devices which amplify signals carried over 2G, 3G or 4G networks (see Proposed Regulation 3(q)); and

b) make clear that mobile repeaters which amplify signals outside of 2G, 3G or 4G networks must meet the minimum requirements set out in the Proposed Regulations. For the most part, this would be achieved as a result of the definition of "mobile repeater device" being extended (as per a) above). However, we are proposing to explicitly extend the power limits which would otherwise apply to mobile repeaters amplifying 4G signals to ensure that they would apply to, for example, 5G repeaters.[11]

3.25 Our provisional view is that this is objectively justified and consistent with Ofcom's statutory duties. This is because:

a) it should further the interests of citizens and consumers as it allows for the licence-exempt use of mobile repeater devices where 5G signal is poor, which is likely to become increasingly important in future as MNOs start to roll out their 5G networks. This should be particularly beneficial for those in rural areas or those with otherwise poor mobile coverage, by allowing consumers to self-install them and thereby promoting competition in the repeater device market;

[10] See, in particular, regulation 2(i) of the 2018 Regulations.
[11] See, in particular, regulations 11(b)(iii), 11(c)(iii), (f)(iii) and (g)(iii). We have also reflected this in the power limits for repeaters amplifying 900/1800 MHz spectrum set out at Table A1 of the draft Interface Requirement at Annex 2.

b) for the reasons set out in our 2021 Statement, our provisional view is that the Proposed Regulations should ensure that any licence-exempt repeaters (including those, for example, which amplify 5G signals) are not likely to involve undue interference, endanger safety of life, or have adverse effects on technical quality of service. Our technical analysis[12] applies equally to 5G repeaters operating in the frequency bands considered and therefore there is no reason to believe that 5G repeaters should be any more likely to cause undue interference or other adverse effects on technical quality of service than other (2G, 3G, 4G) repeaters;

c) linked to b) above, it should also result in a more proportionate licence-exemption regime, as we have not identified any reason to confine the scope of the extension to 2G, 3G and 4G repeaters and are concerned that doing so would impose an unnecessary restriction on the use of mobile repeaters. Indeed, it would be consistent with our decision in the 2021 Repeaters Statement to allow 700 MHz spectrum (which is [being used/due to be used] by the MNOs) to be amplified by mobile repeaters;

d) it would be consistent with our duty to take account of the desirability of Ofcom's carrying out its functions in a manner which, so far as practicable, does not favour one form of electronic communications network or electronic communications service over another (section 4(6) Communications Act 2003);

e) in reaching this provisional view, we have had regard to the desirability of encouraging the availability and use of high-speed data transfer services throughout the UK (which includes 5G mobile services) and the principles under which regulatory activities should be consistent;

f) we consider that this would not be unduly discriminatory against particular persons or against a particular description of persons in that the Proposed Regulations would apply to all users of relevant repeaters (and, indirectly, to all manufacturers and sellers). Indeed, it would ensure that those consumers that are reliant on 5G mobile signals are able to have the same opportunity – where their coverage is poor - as other consumers (on 2G, 3G or 4G networks) to use a mobile repeater; and

g) we consider that the rules on the licence-exempt use of mobile repeaters (including those that amplify 5G signals) would be transparent, in that they would be specified in the Proposed Regulations and in the associated Interface Requirements.

[12] See, in particular, Annex A1 of our 2021 Repeaters Consultation.

4. General effect

4.1 In this section, we set out the general effects of the Proposed Regulations, as required by section 122(5) of the 2006 Act.

Extent of application

4.2 The Proposed Regulations would apply in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Proposed Regulations

Overall general effect

4.3 The overall general effect of the Proposed Regulations would be to implement the 2021 Repeaters Statement. In particular, to extend the licence exempt regime for static indoor mobile phone repeaters to include provider-specific and multi-operator repeaters.

4.4 They contain terms, provisions and limitations to which this licence exemption is subject. Devices that do not meet those terms, provisions and limitations do not fall within the exemption and their establishment, installation and use without a licence will continue to be a criminal offence. The specific substantive requirements for, and detailed effects of, the exemption are set out in the 2021 Repeaters Statement.

4.5 Regulation 1 sets out the date when the Proposed Regulations would come into force, which we discuss further at para 4.10 below.

4.6 Regulation 2 revokes the 2018 Regulations.

4.7 Regulation 3 sets out a number of defined terms, which are used throughout the Proposed Regulations. This includes, at regulation 3(q), an updated definition of “mobile repeater device”, which is intended to avoid confining the scope of licence-exempt repeaters to only 2G, 3G and 4G repeaters.

4.8 Regulation 4 provides for both provider-specific and multi-operator repeater devices to be licence exempt. It explains that the terms, provisions and limitations at Regulations 5 to 8 must be satisfied by both provider-specific and multi-operator repeaters. These rules include, amongst others, that the repeater does not cause or contribute to undue interference to other radio users. It then explains that Regulations 9 to 12 will also apply in respect of provider-specific repeaters only, and that Regulations 13 to 17 will also apply in respect of multi-operator repeaters only.

4.9 Regulation 18 takes the rules on repeaters for use in vehicles (rather than static indoor repeaters, which were the subject of the 2021 Repeaters Statement) and incorporates them into the Proposed Regulations. The Proposed Regulations do not modify in any way

the rules regarding licence exemption for in-vehicle repeaters (which continue to refer to Interface Requirement 2102.2).[13]

Entry into force of the Proposed Regulations

4.10 The Proposed Regulations are intended to come into force as soon as practical after making the final regulations, taking into consideration any comments received.

> Do you have any comments on:
>
> a) whether the Proposed Regulations correctly implement our decision in the 2021 Repeaters Statement?; and
>
> b) our proposal to make the Proposed Regulations technology-neutral?

Impact Assessments

General impact assessment

4.11 Section 7 of the 2003 Act requires that, where we are proposing to do anything for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying out of our functions, and it appears to us that the proposal is important, we are required to carry out and publish an assessment of the likely impact of implementing the proposal, or a statement setting out our reasons for thinking that it is unnecessary to carry out such an assessment.

4.12 The analysis presented in the 2021 Repeaters Statement and in our earlier consultation constitutes our impact assessment, together with (in respect of our proposal to make the Proposed Regulations technology-neutral) the analysis presented in this consultation.

Equality Impact Assessment

4.13 Ofcom is also required by statute to assess the potential impact of all its functions, policies, projects and practices on the following equality groups: age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) also assist us in making sure that we are meeting our principal duty of furthering the interests of citizens and consumers regardless of their background or identity.

4.14 The proposals set out in this document would apply equally to all users of mobile phone repeaters. We have not identified any differential impact of our proposals in relation to the identified equality groups and, in our assessment, they would not disproportionately affect any group of consumers.

[13] https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/112291/IR_2102.pdf

A1. Proposed Regulations

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2022 No.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2022

Made - - - - ***

Coming into force - - ***

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PART 3

Exemption applicable to mobile repeater devices for use in a motor vehicle

18. Scope of exemption for use in a motor vehicle

The Office of Communications ("OFCOM") make the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 8(3) and section 122(7) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006([14]) (the "Act") and in exercise of those sections of the Act([15]) as extended to the Bailiwick of Guernsey, to the Bailiwick of Jersey and to the Isle of Man.

Before making these Regulations, OFCOM have given notice of their proposal to do so in accordance with section 122(4)(a) of the Act, published notice of their proposal in accordance with section 122(4)(b) of the Act and have considered the representations made to them before the time specified in that notice in accordance with section 122(4)(c) of the Act.

PART 1

Ref

Introductory Provisions

Citation and Commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2022 and shall come into force on [X] 2022.

Revocation

2. The Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2018([16]) are hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In these Regulations—

(a) "Act" means the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006;

([14]) 2006 c.36

([15]) Section 8(3) and section 122(7) were extended to the Bailiwick of Guernsey by article 2 of the Wireless Telegraphy (Guernsey) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/3325); to the Bailiwick of Jersey by article 2 of the Wireless Telegraphy (Jersey) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/3324); and to the Isle of Man by article 2 of the Wireless Telegraphy (Isle of Man) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/278).

([16]) S.I. 2018/399, as amended by S.I. 2019/1450.

(b) "coverage antenna" means the antenna connected to a mobile repeater device which receives transmissions from mobile devices;

(c) "coverage port" means the interface between a mobile repeater device and its coverage antenna;

(d) "dB" means decibel;

(e) "dBm" means decibels of power referenced to one milliWatt;

(f) "dBm/MHz" means decibels of power referenced to one milliWatt per megahertz;

(g) "dBm/5 MHz" means decibels of power referenced to one milliWatt per five megahertz;

(h) "donor antenna" means the antenna connected to a mobile repeater device which receives transmissions from the base stations of mobile network operators;

(i) "donor port" means the interface between a mobile repeater device and its donor antenna;

(j) "downlink frequencies" means the frequency bands 758-788MHz, 791-821MHz, 925-960MHz, 1805-1880 MHz, and 2110-2170MHz;

(k) "e.i.r.p." means equivalent isotropically radiated power, which is the product of the power supplied to an antenna and the absolute antenna gain in a given direction relative to an isotropic antenna;

(l) "GSM system" means an electronic communications network that complies with standards EN 301 502([17]) and EN 301 511([18]) published by ETSI for the Global System for Mobile Communications (also known as GSM);

(m) "indoors" means inside premises, which—

(i) have a ceiling or a roof; and

(ii) except for any doors, windows or passageways, are wholly enclosed.

(n) "IR 2102.2" means section "IR2102.2: Minimum requirements for the use of: low gain mobile phone repeaters for in-vehicle use" contained within the document entitled "UK Interface Requirement 2102 – Licence exempt static indoor and low gain mobile phone repeaters" published by OFCOM on [*date of the Proposed Regulations coming into force*];

(o) "LTE system" means an electronic communications network that complies with standards EN 301 908-1([19]), EN 301 908-13([20]) and EN 301 908-14([21]) published by ETSI for the Long Term Evolution telecommunication system (also known as LTE);

(p) "MHz" means megahertz;

(q) "mobile repeater device" means a wireless telegraphy station or wireless telegraphy apparatus which amplifies the radio signals carried over frequencies licensed to one or more mobile network operators;

(r) "motor vehicle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads;

(s) "power spectral density" means, in respect of a particular frequency band or frequencies, the e.i.r.p. of the transmissions made by the mobile repeater device using that particular frequency band or frequencies (as applicable) with the average power per five MHz bandwidth centred on that frequency band or frequencies, radiated in the direction of the maximum level;

(t) "system gain" means, in respect of a particular frequency band or frequencies, the difference between (i) the power received at the input antenna of the mobile repeater device in respect of that particular frequency band or those particular frequencies, and (ii) the power transmitted by the output antenna of the mobile repeater device in respect of that particular frequency band or those particular frequencies. System gain shall be expressed in dB;

([17]) EN 301 502 (version 12.5.2) published in OJEU No C180, 8.6.2017, p.14.
([18]) EN 301 511 (version 9.0.2) published in OJEU No C180, 8.6.2017, p.14.
([19]) EN 301 908–1 (version 11.1.1) published in OJEU No C180, 8.6.2017, p.17.
([20]) EN 301 908–13 (version 11.1.1) published in OJEU No C180, 8.6.2017, p.18.
([21]) EN 301 908–14 (version 11.1.2) published in OJEU No C180, 8.6.2017, p.18.

(u) "UMTS system" means an electronic communications network that complies with standards EN 301 908—1, 301 908—2([22]) and EN 301 908—3([23]) published by ETSI for the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (also known as UMTS);

(v) "uplink frequencies" means the frequency bands 703-733 MHz, 832-862 MHz, 880-915 MHz, 1710-1785 MHz and 1920-1980 MHz;

(w) "uplink noise power" means the total amount of noise produced by a mobile repeater device in the relevant uplink frequencies, expressed in dBm/MHz; and

(x) "WiMAX system" means an electronic communications network that complies with standards EN 301 908—1, EN 301 908—21([24]) and EN 301 908—22([25]) published by ETSI for the Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access telecommunication system (also known as WiMAX).

PART 2

Ref

Exemption applicable to mobile repeater devices for indoor use

Scope of exemption for indoor use

4.—(1) The establishment, installation, or use of a mobile repeater device is exempt from the provisions of section 8(1) of the Act where—

a) that device is a provider-specific mobile repeater device; or

b) that device is a multi-operator mobile repeater device.

(2) A mobile repeater device is a provider-specific mobile repeater device if it amplifies signals carried by one or more mobile network operators and complies with the terms, provisions, and limitations specified in regulations 5 to 12.

(3) A mobile repeater device is a multi-operator mobile repeater device if it amplifies signals carried by more than one mobile network operator and complies with the terms, provisions, and limitations specified in regulations 5 to 8 and regulations 13 to 17.

Rules applicable to all mobile repeater devices for indoor use

General rules on transmissions

5.—(1) The mobile repeater device must only be established, installed, and used where the transmissions it makes using downlink frequencies are made indoors.

(2) The mobile repeater device may only amplify signals carried over the downlink frequencies and the uplink frequencies.

Prohibition on undue interference

6. The establishment, installation, and use of the mobile repeater device must not cause or contribute to undue interference to other users of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Anti-oscillation requirements

7.—(1) The mobile repeater device must—

a) automatically detect any oscillations it makes; and

b) use an anti-oscillation technique, in accordance with paragraphs (4) and (5), where it detects any such oscillations.

([22]) EN 301 908–2 (version 11.1.1) published in OJEU No C180, 8.6.2017, p.17.
([23]) EN 301 908–3 (version 11.1.3) published in OJEU No C180, 8.6.2017, p.17.
([24]) EN 301 908–21 (version 6.1.1) published in OJEU No C180, 8.6.2017, p.19.
([25]) EN 301 908–22 (version 6.1.1) published in OJEU No C180, 8.6.2017, p.19.

(2) Any oscillations in the uplink frequencies must be detected within 0.3 seconds.

(3) Any oscillations in the downlink frequencies must be detected within one second.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), if the mobile repeater device detects any oscillations, it must use an anti-oscillation technique to stop those oscillations and must continue this technique for at least one minute.

(5) If an anti-oscillation technique has been used on five occasions in accordance with paragraph (4), and the mobile repeater device subsequently detects further oscillations, it must cease transmitting and can only resume operation if it is manually reset.

(6) For the purpose of this regulation—

(a) a mobile repeater device makes oscillations when the isolation between the donor antenna and coverage antenna of that device is less than the gain of that device, resulting in the transmissions made by the mobile repeater device being re-received and subsequently re-amplified by the device; and

(b) "anti-oscillation technique" means either—

(i) a technique which is used to automatically reduce the system gain of a mobile repeater device to stop that device from making oscillations; or

(ii) any other technique which is used to stop a mobile repeater device from making oscillations.

System noise figure limit

8.—(1) The system noise figure for the mobile repeater device shall not exceed 7 dB.

(2) For the purpose of this regulation—

(a) "system noise figure" means the difference between (i) the noise power measured at the output port of the mobile repeater device, and (ii) the noise power which would be present at the output port of that device if the only source of noise from that device were thermal noise. System noise figure shall be expressed in dB; and

(b) "thermal noise" means the noise power from a mobile repeater device due to the thermal agitation of charge carriers within that device at room temperature, which noise occurs even if the mobile repeater device is not amplifying any signals.

Rules applicable to provider-specific mobile repeater devices

Frequencies to be amplified

9.—(1) Where the mobile repeater device amplifies signals carried by a mobile network operator over an LTE system or a WiMAX system or both, it must also amplify signals carried by that mobile network operator over a GSM system or a UMTS system or both.

Automatic standby requirement

10.—(1) Where the mobile repeater device does not serve an active connection to a mobile device operating on the network of a particular mobile network operator for five minutes or more, it must ensure that any transmissions it makes using the uplink frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator comply with the limit set out at paragraph (2).

(2) The transmissions, when measured in any direction, must have an uplink noise power which does not exceed -70 dBm/MHz.

Power limits

11. The mobile repeater device may only emit transmissions using frequencies licensed to a particular mobile network operator which—

(a) in the frequency band 703-733 MHz or 832-862 MHz, when measured in any direction and in respect of the frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator only, have an e.i.r.p. no greater than 23 dBm;

(b) in the frequency band 880-915 MHz, when measured in any direction and in respect of the frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator only, have—

(i) an e.i.r.p. where those transmissions are carried over a GSM system no greater than 33 dBm;

(ii) an e.i.r.p. where those transmissions are carried over a UMTS system no greater than 24 dBm; and

(iii) an e.i.r.p, where those transmissions are carried over a terrestrial electronic communications network that is not a GSM system or UMTS system, no greater than 23 dBm;

(c) in the frequency band 1710-1785 MHz, when measured in any direction and in respect of the frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator only, have—

(i) an e.i.r.p. where those transmissions are carried over a GSM system no greater than 30 dBm;

(ii) an e.i.r.p. where those transmissions are carried over a UMTS system no greater than 24 dBm; and

(iii) an e.i.r.p. where those transmissions are carried over a terrestrial electronic communications network that is not a GSM system or UMTS system, no greater than 23 dBm;

(d) in the frequency band 1920-1980 MHz, when measured in any direction and in respect of the frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator only, have an e.i.r.p. no greater than 24 dBm;

(e) in the frequency band 758-788 MHz or 791-821 MHz, when measured in any direction and in respect of the frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator only, have—

(i) an e.i.r.p. no greater than 17 dBm; and

(ii) a power spectral density no greater than 10 dBm/5 MHz;

(f) in the frequency band 925-960 MHz, when measured in any direction and in respect of the frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator only, have—

(i) an e.i.r.p. where those transmissions are carried over a GSM system no greater than 10 dBm;

(ii) an e.i.r.p. where those transmissions are carried over a terrestrial electronic communications network that is not a GSM system, no greater than 17 dBm; and

(iii) a power spectral density, where those transmissions are carried over a terrestrial electronic communications network that is not a GSM system, no greater than 10 dBm/5 MHz;

(g) in the frequency band 1805-1880 MHz, when measured in any direction and in respect of the frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator only, have—

(i) an e.i.r.p. where those transmissions are carried over a GSM system no greater than 10 dBm;

(ii) an e.i.r.p. where those transmissions are carried over a terrestrial electronic communications network that is not a GSM system, no greater than 17 dBm; and

(iii) a power spectral density, where those transmissions are carried over a terrestrial electronic communications network that is not a GSM system, no greater than 10 dBm/5 MHz; and

(h) in the frequency band 2110-2170 MHz, when measured in any direction and in respect of the frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator only, have—

(i) an e.i.r.p. no greater than 17 dBm; and

(ii) a power spectral density no greater than 10 dBm/5 MHz.

System gain limits

12.—(1) Where the mobile repeater device emits transmissions using frequencies licensed to one mobile network operator only, the uplink and downlink system gain should be measured for each of the frequency bands being transmitted.

(2) Where the mobile repeater device emits transmissions using frequencies licensed to more than one mobile network operator within a particular frequency band, the uplink and downlink system gain should be measured separately for the frequencies licensed to each mobile network operator within that band that are being transmitted.

(3) The uplink and downlink system gain must not exceed whichever is the smaller of—

a) 100 dB; and

b) BSCL – 30 dB.

(4) Where the mobile repeater device cannot determine the BSCL for a particular frequency band or for the frequencies licensed to a particular mobile network operator, it shall not make any transmissions using that frequency band or those frequencies (as applicable).

(5) In this regulation, "BSCL" means base station coupling loss, which is the difference between (i) the power transmitted by the base station (which may be determined from the system information messages sent by that base station on its control channels) and (ii) the power received by the mobile repeater device from the base station. BSCL shall be measured in dB.

Rules applicable to multi-operator mobile repeater devices

Frequencies that must be amplified

13. The mobile repeater device must emit transmissions using all of the following frequencies—

a) 880 – 915 MHz;

b) 925 – 960 MHz;

c) 1710 – 1785 MHz;

d) 1805 – 1880 MHz;

e) 1920 – 1980 MHz; and

f) 2110 – 2170 MHz.

Automatic standby requirement

14.—(1) Where the mobile repeater device does not serve an active mobile device connection for five minutes or more, it must ensure that any transmissions it makes using the uplink frequencies comply with the limit set out at paragraph (2).

(2) The transmissions, when measured in any direction, must have an uplink noise power which does not exceed -70 dBm/MHz.

Limits on power spectral density

15.—(1) The mobile repeater device may only emit transmissions using uplink frequencies in a particular frequency band which, when measured in any direction, have a power spectral density no greater than 17 dBm/5 MHz.

(2) The mobile repeater device may only emit transmissions using downlink frequencies in a particular frequency band which, when measured in any direction, have a power spectral density no greater than 10 dBm/5 MHz.

System gain limits

16.—(1) The uplink and downlink system gain must be measured separately for each of the frequency bands being transmitted.

(2) The uplink and downlink system gain must not exceed whichever is the smaller of—

a) 100 dB; and

b) 10 dB – RSSI.

(3) The uplink and downlink system gain must be equal.

(4) In this regulation, "RSSI" means received signal strength indicator, which is the total downlink signal power received at the donor port of the mobile repeater device, for all base stations in the frequency band being transmitted. RSSI shall be measured in dBm.

Limit on transmitted intermodulation products

17.—(1) For each frequency band that is being transmitted by the mobile repeater device, the power level of transmitted intermodulation products due to input signals within that frequency band shall not exceed −19dBm at the donor and coverage ports of that device.

(2) In this regulation, "transmitted intermodulation products" due to input signals within a frequency band means any signals transmitted by the mobile repeater device within that frequency band which have been created from the non-linear combination of two or more input signals within that frequency band.

PART 3

Exemption applicable to mobile repeater devices for use in a motor vehicle

Scope of exemption for use in a motor vehicle

18.—(1) The establishment, installation and use of a mobile repeater device is also exempt from the provisions of section 8(1) of the Act where the terms, provisions, and limitations in this regulation are met.

(2) The mobile repeater device and its establishment, installation, and use must comply with IR2102.2.

(3) The mobile repeater device must only be established, installed, and used in a motor vehicle.

(4) The establishment, installation, and use must not cause or contribute to any undue interference to any wireless telegraphy.

Helen Hearn
Interim Group Director of Spectrum
Office of Communications

[X] 2022

A2. Draft Interface Requirements[26] for Licence Exempt Provider-Specific Static Mobile Phone Repeaters for Indoor Use

Table 1: IR2102.1: Minimum requirements for the use of: provider-specific static mobile phone repeaters for indoor use

Mandatory (1-11)			
1	Radiocommunication Service	Mobile	
2	Application	Provider-specific static mobile phone repeaters for indoor use	
3	Frequency bands	700	703-733 MHz (Uplink) 758-788 MHz (Downlink)
		800	791-821 MHz (Downlink) 832-862 MHz (Uplink)
		900	880-915 MHz (Uplink) 925-960 MHz (Downlink)
		1800	1710-1785 MHz (Uplink) 1805-1880 MHz (Downlink)
		2100	1920-1980 MHz (Uplink) 2110-2170 MHz (Downlink)
4	Channelling	Not specified	

[26] Please note that this Interface Requirement is intended to provide an accessible summary of the minimum requirements applicable to provider-specific static mobile phone repeaters for indoor use. The full detail of the terms, provisions and limitations of the licence exemption is set out in the Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2022. The Regulations shall take precedence in the case of any inconsistency.

5	Modulation / Occupied bandwidth	Not specified
6	Direction / Separation	Repeater transmit/receive
7	Transmit power/Power density	See Table A1
8	Channel access and occupation rules	**Transmit Gain Control** The uplink and downlink system gain in dB of a repeater, referenced to its input and output ports, shall not exceed BSCL−30, where BSCL (base station coupling loss) is the path loss between the base station and the repeater. Where BSCL cannot be determined, the repeater must not transmit. The uplink and downlink system gain of a repeater shall not exceed 100 dB. The apparatus shall determine the value of BSCL by calculating the difference between the carrier power received at the repeater and the carrier power transmitted from the base station. The carrier power transmitted by the base station may be determined from the system information messages sent by the base station on its control channels.
		Automatic Standby When the repeater is no longer serving an active connection to a mobile device operating on the network of a particular mobile network operator, it must, after no more than 5 minutes, reduce any uplink noise power associated with the frequencies licensed to that mobile network operator to no more than −70 dBm/MHz EIRP.
		Anti-Oscillation

		Repeaters must detect and stop (i.e. by automatic gain reduction or shut down) any oscillations in uplink and downlink frequency bands. Oscillation detection must occur automatically within: • 0.3 seconds in the uplink band; and • 1 second in the downlink band. In cases where oscillation is detected, the repeater must continue any anti-oscillation technique for at least one minute. After anti-oscillation techniques have been used five times, the repeater must cease transmitting and cannot resume operation until manually reset.
		Provider Specific configuration Where a repeater is only capable of amplifying frequencies licensed to one mobile network operator at a time, the Transmit Power/Power Density and Transmit Gain Control requirements shall be calculated and applied individually for each uplink and downlink frequency band (as defined in Mandatory 3) that is being amplified by that repeater. Where a repeater is capable of amplifying frequencies licensed to more than one mobile network operator at the same time, those requirements shall be calculated and applied individually for each of the uplink and downlink frequency bands licensed to each mobile network operator that is being amplified by that repeater.
		Noise Figure The repeater system noise figure shall not exceed 7 dB.

9	Authorisation regime	**Licence Exempt**[27] The deployment of a 4G only provider-specific static mobile phone repeater is not permitted. When amplifying a 4G signal licensed to a mobile network operator, all provider-specific static mobile phone repeaters must also amplify a 2G and/or a 3G signal licensed to that mobile network operator.
10	Additional essential requirements	Nil
11	Frequency planning assumptions	Not specified
Informative (12-15)		
12	Planned changes	Nil
13	Reference	EN 303 609 EN 301 908-11 EN 301 908-15
14	Remarks	Nil
15	Notification Number (in respect of Northern Ireland)	2021/7013/XI

[27] See remarks

Table A1

Band	**Technology**	**Maximum Uplink Power**	**Maximum Downlink Power (indoor use only)**
700 & 800	Technology Neutral	23 dBm EIRP	PSD 10 dBm / 5 MHz EIRP; and Total 17 dBm EIRP
900	GSM	33 dBm EIRP	10 dBm EIRP
1800	GSM	30 dBm EIRP	10 dBm EIRP
900, 1800 & 2100	3G	24 dBm EIRP	PSD 10 dBm / 5 MHz EIRP; and Total 17 dBm EIRP
900 & 1800	Technology Neutral (excluding GSM and 3G)	23 dBm EIRP	PSD 10 dBm / 5 MHz EIRP; and Total 17 dBm EIRP
2100	Technology Neutral (excluding 3G)	24 dBm EIRP	PSD 10 dBm / 5 MHz EIRP; and Total 17 dBm EIRP

Where PSD is power spectral density

A3. Draft Interface Requirements[28] for Licence Exempt Multi-Operator Static Mobile Phone Repeaters for Indoor Use

Table 2: IR2102.3: Minimum requirements for the use of multi-operator static mobile phone repeaters for indoor use

Mandatory (1-11)			
1	Radiocommunication Service	Mobile	
2	Application	Multi-operator static mobile phone repeaters for indoor use	
3	Frequency bands	700	703-733 MHz (Uplink) 758-788 MHz (Downlink)
		800	832-862 MHz (Uplink) 791-821 MHz (Downlink)
		900	880-915 MHz (Uplink) 925-960 MHz (Downlink)
		1800	1710-1785 MHz (Uplink) 1805-1880 MHz (Downlink)
		2100	1920-1980 MHz (Uplink) 2110-2170 MHz (Downlink)
4	Channelling	Not specified	
5	Modulation / Occupied bandwidth	Not specified	

[28] Please note that this Interface Requirement is intended to provide an accessible summary of the minimum requirements applicable to multi-operator static mobile phone repeaters for indoor use. The full detail of the terms, provisions and limitations of the licence exemption is set out in the Wireless Telegraphy (Mobile Repeater) (Exemption) Regulations 2022. The Regulations shall take precedence in the case of any inconsistency.

<table>
<tr><td>6</td><td>Direction / Separation</td><td colspan="2">Repeater transmit/receive</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">7</td><td rowspan="2">Transmit power/Power density</td><td>Maximum Uplink Power for each Frequency Band</td><td>17 dBm / 5 MHz EIRP</td></tr>
<tr><td>Maximum Downlink Power for each Frequency Band</td><td>10 dBm / 5 MHz EIRP (indoor use only)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">8</td><td rowspan="3">Channel access and occupation rules</td><td colspan="2">Transmit Gain Control

The uplink and downlink system gain in dB of a repeater, referenced to its input and output ports, shall not exceed 10−RSSI, where RSSI is the downlink composite received signal power in dBm at the repeater donor port, for all base stations in the band of operation.

A repeater shall provide the same uplink and downlink system gain.

The uplink and downlink system gain of a repeater shall not exceed 100 dB.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Automatic Standby

When the repeater is no longer serving an active device connection it must, after no more than 5 minutes, reduce any uplink noise power to no more than −70 dBm/MHz EIRP.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Anti-Oscillation

Repeaters must detect and stop (i.e. by automatic gain reduction or shut down) any oscillations in uplink and downlink frequency bands. Oscillation detection must occur automatically within:</td></tr>
</table>

		• 0.3 seconds in the uplink band; and • 1 second in the downlink band. In cases where oscillation is detected, the repeater must continue any anti-oscillation technique for at least one minute. After anti-oscillation techniques have been used five times, the repeater must cease transmitting and cannot resume operation until manually reset.
		Noise Figure The repeater system noise figure shall not exceed 7 dB.
		Intermodulation due to signals within the frequency band(s) of operation For each frequency band that is being amplified by the repeater, transmitted intermodulation products due to input signals within that band shall not exceed −19dBm at the donor and coverage ports.
9	Authorisation regime	**Licence Exempt**[29] All multi-operator static mobile phone repeaters must transmit the entirety of the 900, 1800 and 2100 frequency bands as defined in **Mandatory 3**. This requirement ensures that the 2G/3G layers of all MNOs are repeated by the multi-operator repeater, ensuring that 4G-only hotspots are not created in premises using a licence-exempt repeater.
10	Additional essential requirements	Nil

[29] See remarks

11	Frequency planning assumptions	Not specified
Informative (12-15)		
12	Planned changes	Nil
13	Reference	EN 303 609 EN 301 908-11 EN 301 908-15
14	Remarks	Nil
15	Notification Number **(in respect of Northern Ireland)**	2021/7013/XI

A4. Responding to this consultation

How to respond

A4.1 Ofcom would like to receive views and comments on the issues raised in this document, by 5pm on 25 April 2022.

A4.2 You can download a response form from https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-3/wireless-telegraphy-mobile-repeater-exemption-regulations-2022. You can return this by email or post to the address provided in the response form.

A4.3 If your response is a large file, or has supporting charts, tables or other data, please email it to mobilephonerepeaters@ofcom.org.uk, as an attachment in Microsoft Word format, together with the cover sheet. This email address is for this consultation only, and will not be valid after the consultation closes.

A4.4 Responses may alternatively be posted to the address below, marked with the title of the consultation:

Eniola Awoyale
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

A4.5 We welcome responses in formats other than print, for example an audio recording or a British Sign Language video. To respond in BSL:

- Send us a recording of you signing your response. This should be no longer than 5 minutes. Suitable file formats are DVDs, wmv or QuickTime files. Or
- Upload a video of you signing your response directly to YouTube (or another hosting site) and send us the link.

A4.6 We will publish a transcript of any audio or video responses we receive (unless your response is confidential).

A4.7 We do not need a paper copy of your response as well as an electronic version. We will acknowledge receipt if your response is submitted via the online web form, but not otherwise.

A4.8 We welcome joint responses.

A4.9 It would be helpful if your response could include a direct answer to the question asked in this consultation document. The question is whether the Proposed Regulations correctly implement our decision in the 2021 Repeaters Statement (see paragraph 2.5). It would also help if you could explain why you hold your views, and what you think the effect of Ofcom's proposals would be.

A4.10 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, please contact Eniola Awoyale by email to mobilephonerepeaters@ofcom.org.uk.

Confidentiality

A4.11 Consultations are more effective if we publish the responses before the consultation period closes. In particular, this can help people and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. So, in the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, and because we believe it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other respondents' views, we usually publish all responses on the Ofcom website as soon as we receive them.

A4.12 If you think your response should be kept confidential, please specify which part(s) this applies to, and explain why. Please send any confidential sections as a separate annex. If you want your name, address, other contact details or job title to remain confidential, please provide them only in the cover sheet, so that we don't have to edit your response.

A4.13 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and try to respect it. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.

A4.14 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's intellectual property rights are explained further in our Terms of Use.

Next steps

A4.15 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish a statement in June 2022.

A4.16 If you wish, you can register to receive mail updates alerting you to new Ofcom publications.

Ofcom's consultation processes

A4.17 Ofcom aims to make responding to a consultation as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex 5.

A4.18 If you have any comments or suggestions on how we manage our consultations, please email us at consult@ofcom.org.uk. We particularly welcome ideas on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of groups or individuals, such as small businesses and residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.

A4.19 If you would like to discuss these issues, or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally, please contact the corporation secretary:

Corporation Secretary
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
Email: corporationsecretary@ofcom.org.uk

A5. Ofcom's consultation principles

Ofcom has seven principles that it follows for every public written consultation:

Before the consultation

A5.1 Wherever possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation, to find out whether we are thinking along the right lines. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals, shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

A5.2 We will be clear about whom we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.

A5.3 We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible, with a summary of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible for people to give us a written response. If the consultation is complicated, we may provide a short Plain English / Cymraeg Clir guide, to help smaller organisations or individuals who would not otherwise be able to spare the time to share their views.

A5.4 We will consult for up to ten weeks, depending on the potential impact of our proposals.

A5.5 A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and aim to reach the largest possible number of people and organisations who may be interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's Consultation Champion is the main person to contact if you have views on the way we run our consultations.

A5.6 If we are not able to follow any of these seven principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

A5.7 We think it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other people's views, so we usually publish all the responses on our website as soon as we receive them. After the consultation we will make our decisions and publish a statement explaining what we are going to do, and why, showing how respondents' views helped to shape these decisions.

A6. Consultation coversheet

BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title:

To (Ofcom contact):

Name of respondent:

Representing (self or organisation/s):

Address (if not received by email):

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

Nothing ☐

Name/contact details/job title ☐

Whole response ☐

Organisation ☐

Part of the response ☐

If there is no separate annex, which parts? _____

_____

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

DECLARATION

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to publish all responses, including those which are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom seeks to publish responses on receipt. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.

Name Signed (if hard copy)