CEPT Workshop on Spectrum for Drones / UAS
CEPT Administrations, Market Surveillance and EC – UK View

Stephen Talbot, Head of International Spectrum Policy, Ofcom
Ofcom - what do we do? “Our main legal duties are”

• Ensuring effective use of the radio spectrum
• Ensuring a wide range of electronic communications services is available throughout UK (promoting competition)
• Safeguarding the UK’s universal service obligation on postal services
• Ensuring a wide range of television and radio programmes of high quality and wide appeal, with services are provided by a range of different organisations
• Maintaining plurality of broadcasting services
• Applying adequate protection for audiences against
  – offensive or harmful material
  – unfairness or infringement of privacy
Ofcom – what we do not do...

Day to day regulation is contracted out to co-regulatory bodies for:

• the content of adverts on television (linear and on-demand) and radio (Advertising Standards Authority)
• premium-rate services, including mobile-phone text services and ringtones (PhonePayPlus)

We do not regulate:

• disputes between individual consumers and telecoms providers;
• the BBC TV licence fee; or
• newspapers and magazines, and

• Operational requirements for aircraft, in UK controlled airspace
Spectrum Questions in UK

**Todays drones spectrum requirements seems satisfied:**
- Requests for higher powers, not necessarily dedicated spectrum
- Not solely reliant on radio control
- Mobile network use provides both payload and non-payload spectrum options

**UK user base - estimates:**
- Just under 4100 registered commercial users in the UK
- Leisure users much higher, but not recorded
- USA: leisure and commercial users register
- 7:1 ratio
Market Surveillance Experiences in UK

Vast majority of equipment is on a licence exempt based:

- Power levels in 2.4/5.8 GHz, higher levels requested
- Some in the FCC licence exempt: Part 15 rules (902 – 928 MHz)
- Enforcement action, on imported equipment

Spectrum snap shot:

- Market presently seems mostly satisfied by LE options
- Non operational licences have been issued
- No current requests to use the 5030 - 5091 MHz band
Technical Work and Regulatory Discussions

3GPP, ETSI, CEPT:

- ECC Report 268 published in February
- US trails on use of mobile networks (3GPP TR 36.777 V1.0.0 (2017-12))
- DTR/ERM-TGAERO-32 TR 103 373 – work restarted in February

Technical considerations:

- Airborne use presents challenges
- Spectrum is a part of a control ecosystem
- Consideration of existing communication networks must be factored in
- Aviation operational requirements to be assessed by those experts
We have landed