



# The New UK Amateur Radio Licence

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February 2024

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# Introduction

- **Some licence statistics**
- **What happened in 2023**
- **Consultation Responses to Ofcom**
- **Timescales**
- **What's been changed and new licence review**
- **Other Considerations**
- **Summary**

# Licence Statistics

- **Make sure your details are up-to-date at Ofcom!**
- **Approximately 100,000 licences (call signs) on issue**
- **Approximately 70,000 licensees (excluding duplicates)**
- **Approximately 1,000 silent keys declared to Ofcom pa**
- **Approximately 20,000 RSGB members (28% of licensees)**

# What Happened in 2023

- **June – September the Ofcom licence consultation**
- **December 11th 2023 – Ofcom General Notice of proposals to vary amateur licences and Statement**
- **December 2023 – January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 – Representations**
- **November – IARU Region 1 Conference in Dubai**
- **November – December ITU WRC-23 in Serbia**

# Responses to Ofcom

- **Ofcom received 1443 responses to the consultation**
- **This was the highest number ever received by Ofcom to a consultation of this type**
- **RSGB encouraged responses but did not provide a 'standard' template so replies were independent**
- **Findings of a survey (461 participants) conducted by Essex Ham closely matched the opinions expressed in the Ofcom consultation, except on RSL proposals**

# Implementation Timescale

- **Phase 1 (in place from February 21<sup>st</sup> 2024)**  
**Changes that can be introduced immediately**
- **Phase 2 (later in 2024, early 2025)**  
**Changes requiring Ofcom records and database alterations**
- **Phase 3 (by April 2025)**  
**Changes requiring new Ofcom IT platform to be in place**

# What Has Changed (Revised Proposals)

- **Call sign reissue:** Original 2 year unallocated period for old call signs has been revised to five years
- **Foundation licensees:** The proposed 20W power limit has been increased to 25W output
- **Foundation licensees:** The proposed 1W limit on the new 2.4 and 5GHz band allocation has been increased to 2W
- **Data Systems:** A new 'Data Station' category of operation has been introduced to cover wider range of scenarios

# What Has Changed (Revised Proposals)

- **Schedule 2:** The proposed ‘Schedule 2’ to the licence has been comprehensively revised and is now included as a new Notice of Coordination. This covers unattended beacons and repeaters etc and the procedures for coordination of frequency allocation with other band users such as the CAA and MoD. Applies largely to bands such as 2m, 70cm, 23cm and higher
- **Terms and Conditions:** Adjusted wording for clarity in response to feedback and to correct errors or omissions etc.



# New Licence Specifics – Phase 1

**In force from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

- **Power Levels**

**Foundation: 25W on most bands**

**Intermediate: 100W on primary bands**

**Full: 1kW on primary bands**

**Airborne Operation: 0.5W EIRP on primary bands**

**As always, be certain to check your licence conditions!**

# New Licence Specifics – Phase 1

**In force from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

- **Call Signs**

**RSLs are optional (except for Intermediate 2\* call signs)**

**Optional use of 'E' as RSL in England (Foundation, Full & M8/M9 Int)**

**Any (or no) suffix allowed (except offensive/abusive words etc!)**

**No NoV required when 'special' RSLs are granted by Ofcom**

**New, first-time applicants are restricted to only ever holding a single personal call sign (appropriate to their exam level)**

# New Licence Specifics – Phase 1

**In force from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

- **Increased Flexibility**

**Full station use by unlicensed persons under supervision**

**New ‘Data Station’ mode of operation (eg mesh networks etc)**

**Updates to remote control and unattended operation**

# New Licence Specifics – Phase 1

**In force from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

- **Increased Flexibility**

**Beacons: any licence <5W ERP, Intermediate/Full up to 25W ERP with RSGB allocated call sign. NoV required for higher power**

**Gateways: No NoV <5W ERP. Relaxation of unsupervised op**

**Repeaters: Intermediate/Full no NoV <5W ERP. Above 5W ERP requires call sign from RSGB (max 25W ERP).**

**Repeaters allowed only above 28MHz.**

# New Licence Specifics – Phase 1

**In force from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

- **Increased Flexibility**

**Foundation: Building of own equipment allowed**

**Foundation: Access to 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands (max 2W)**

# New Licence Specifics – Phase 2

**Expected in later 2024 or early 2025**

- **Call signs**

**Cease issue of new 2\* Intermediate call signs and start issue of M8 & M9 series call signs**

**Encourage existing 2\* call sign holders to move to an M8/M9**

**Simplified rules for SES/SSES call signs will be applied**

**Existing licence holders who are upgrading will be limited to holding only one personal call sign (ie any lower levels revoked)**

# New Licence Specifics – Phase 3

**Expected in Q1 of 2025**

- **New Licensing Platform Fully Operational**

**Revocation of (personal) licences/call signs where more than one is held – licensees to choose which one to keep**

**Online revalidation experience improved**

**Ability to choose any available call sign via online portal**

**Ability to change call sign if desired (every 5 years)**

**Old callsigns available for reissue (after 5 years unallocated)**

# Only One Personal Callsign Allowed

**1. The Licence shall continue in force until revoked by Ofcom or surrendered by the Licensee.**

**2. Pursuant to schedule 1 paragraph 8 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (“the Act”) Ofcom may not revoke this Licence under schedule 1 paragraph 6 except:**

*[ items (a) to (e) not shown ]*

**f) Where the licensee holds more than one personal Amateur Radio licence of any class issued by Ofcom;**



# Other Revisions and Changes

- **Exam syllabus updates – mainly in licence conditions**
- **Amendments to text books and sample exam questions**
- **RSGB 2024 Contest rules reflect optional use of RSLs etc**
- **Bandplans – updated to include designated channels for ‘ad hoc’ repeaters on VHF (see March 2024 RadCom)**
- **If you are going to use higher power then you must update your EMF assessments**
- **Opportunities for outreach, recruitment and development**

# Repeaters, Beacons and Gateways etc

- **RSGB ETCC – self coordination and registration of beacons, repeaters and gateways <5W**
- **RSGB ETCC – situation regarding >5W will be largely as-is**
- **Be aware that there is wording in the new licence which places the onus on the licensee to ensure compliance with the regulations regarding installing repeaters and beacons etc. There is also a requirement to have evidence available that this has been carried out. See next slide...**

# Repeaters, Beacons and Gateways etc

- (For example...) provided that the licensee...  
... is able to demonstrate that reasonable steps have been taken to minimise the risk of the [*Repeater etc*] causing undue interference to other authorised uses of radio and provide evidence of this if requested by Ofcom;
- **As always, check the licence conditions**

# Ofcom Recommends Email For Communication

- If you have previously opted for postal communication from Ofcom, they now recommend changing to email
- Send an email to Ofcom (by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024) at [amateur.radio.review@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:amateur.radio.review@ofcom.org.uk)
- Subject: Email communication - YES!
- Body: Your Full Name  
Customer Ref Number or Callsign

# Summary

- **Some licence statistics**
- **What happened in 2023**
- **Consultation responses to Ofcom**
- **Timescales – it is in place NOW!**
- **Revised proposals and new licence review**
- **Other considerations/amendments required**
- **Familiarise yourself with the new licence conditions!**

# Any Questions

**Thank you for your attention,  
that concludes this presentation.**

**Any questions or comments?**

