

## Amateur Radio Bands Spectrum Policing Funding

28 march 2008

### Press Release

We are investigating means of recouping revenue lost since the introduction of the lifetime licence.

Since the introduction of the lifetime licence there has been a marked increase in the number of reported incidents of spectrum abuse and some means is required to finance Spectrum Policing.

From Tuesday April 1st, 2008 we will begin a consultation exercise with radio amateurs regarding a 'pay per use' of their available spectrum.

To this extent, it is proposed that a charge of 0.3p for FM and AM, 0.2p for SSB and Data modes and 0.1p for CW, will be levied for each transmission period regardless of length, with payments deducted directly from wages or benefits of the transmitting station on a PAYE basis. It is hoped that this cost levy will discourage those who persistently key the transmitter in order to disrupt other users.

It is recognised that repeater keepers will be worried that this charge will be applied to their repeaters and that group subscriptions will need to be increased accordingly. As Ofcom wishes to see these important community resources thrive, repeaters will be exempt if their time-out times are reduced to 90 seconds (1 and a half Minutes) for 2 Meter repeaters, and 240 seconds (4 Minutes) for all other bands.