



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/06048

E-mail: ISS-SecretariatGpMbx@mod.gov.uk

14 June 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 20 May 2019 requesting the following information:

"I saw the results of a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act where questions had been asked regarding the following statement;

The first auction of 5G spectrum concluded in April 2018 when Ofcom sold 150MHz of 3.4GHz spectrum previously used by the Ministry of Defence. All four operators secured spectrum, although the fifth bidder, Airspan Spectrum Holdings, failed in its bid. The 3.4GHz spectrum will be used for – and central to – rolling out 5G networks. Ofcom also auctioned off 40MHz of 2.3GHz spectrum (also recovered from the MoD) for immediate use to provide additional capacity for existing networks, which can also be used for 5G in the future. O2 won all the available 2.3GHz spectrum.

The response completely side-stepped the questions raised by stating that there is no such thing as a "5g Bandwidth". So I would like to ask some of the questions again.

What did the MOD use their allocation of the 3.4GHz and 2.3GHz bandwidths for within the UK and Worldwide?

What software and hardware inventions, apparatus, tools, weapons, units and anything of note use the 3.4GHz and 2.3GHz bandwidths?

I would be really grateful for any information received as I have concerns regarding the rollout of 5g as I have read that some of the frequencies that are to be used have previously been used for crowd control due to their effects on biology. Please could you clarify."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

Some of the information you have requested can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at Section 24 (National Security) and Section 26 (Defence) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 24 and 26 are qualified exemptions and are subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 24(1) has been applied because releasing specific details on systems and services used on MOD's allocated bandwidths could assist a potential adversary whose intent is to cause disruption in a way that would have a harmful effect to MOD computer networks and communication systems. Such disruption would prejudice the capability of the networks which would severely impact on Defence activities being undertaken in support of national security. The release of some information would increase the security risks to our networks and systems.

Additionally, Section 26(1)(a) and (b) has been applied because releasing specific details about the systems and services used on these bandwidths would provide potential adversaries with valuable intelligence, which in turn could seriously prejudice and compromise the defence of the UK if used by an adversary to circumvent our systems.

For these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

What did the MOD use their allocation of the 3.4GHz and 2.3GHz bandwidths for within the UK and Worldwide?

We only hold information on UK use and cannot therefore provide information on 'Worldwide'.

2.3 GHz	This band was used for a mixture of systems used on the land, in the air and in the sea in line with the UK Frequency Allocation Table 2015 . This band was allocated to Fixed, Mobile, Radiolocation and the Amateur services.
3.4 GHz	in a similar way this band was also used for a variety of systems and services on the land, in the air and on the sea in line with the UK Frequency Allocation Table 2015 . This band was allocated to Mobile, Radiolocation and the Amateur service.

The systems and services which used this band have been withheld using the exemptions cited above and the latest Frequency Allocation tables do not mention Defence in those bands as both have been sold.

What software and hardware inventions, apparatus, tools, weapons, units and anything of note use the 3.4GHz and 2.3GHz bandwidths?

2.3-2.35GHz	2.3-2.35GHz is in accordance with the 2018 FAT (http://static.ofcom.org.uk/static/spectrum/fat.html), sets out that Defence can use this band for Radiolocation and the mobile services. The Amateurs also have access to this band. The military use of the band has been withheld due to the exemptions cited above and will not be released.
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If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be

contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Information Systems and Services (ISS) Secretariat