

power to you

 airtel

 vodafone

Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority,
2nd Floor, Salisbury House,
1-9 Union Street,
St Helier,
Jersey,
JE2 3RF.

16th August 2017

For the attention of Mr. Michael Byrne

Dear Michael,

'Pan-Channel Island Consultation on Spectrum Awards in the 2.6 GHz Band'

Please find Jersey Airtel & Guernsey Airtel's joint response to the queries raised by CICRA in the above dated 5th July 2017.

Question 1: Respondents views are sought on the continued appropriateness or otherwise of the objectives to guide process and criteria for joint allocation of spectrum in the Channel Islands.

Airtel's Response: Airtel agree with CICRA's approach in guiding process and criteria for joint allocation of this spectrum. Airtel firmly believe that the spectrum in the 2.6 GHz band is important for future growth of wireless broadband in the Channel Islands and it must be allocated in a contiguous fashion.

Question 2: Respondents are invited to comment on, with supporting evidence and explanation, current and prospective demand for spectrum in the 2.6 GHz Band that CICRA should consider in making any spectrum recommendation to Ofcom.

Airtel's Response: **Data traffic on mobile broadband networks is growing exponentially as both consumers and business users turn to smartphones, connected laptops, tablet computers and other devices to access the Internet, email, business applications and social networking services.*

At Airtel we have seen over 1000% increase in wireless data consumption since 4G launch.

**Mass-market usage of mobile broadband, particularly in densely-populated or visited areas, will only be possible if mobile networks have sufficient capacity and that depends on governments making more spectrum available*

**The amount of spectrum issued to mobile operators will determine whether they have the bandwidth required to handle the increasing traffic volumes generated by rising demand for mobile broadband, while continuing to deliver high-quality services to their customers. Ideally, mobile operators need a mix of high-frequency and low-frequency spectrum, as different types of spectrum are better-suited to different purposes.*

Guernsey Airtel Limited, 45 High Street, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2JT
Jersey Airtel Limited, La Masurier House, La Rue Le Masurier, St Helier, Jersey JE3 4YE

www.airtel-vodafone.com

power to you

airtel



Airtel has always been a wireless-only operator in the Channel Islands and aims to provide cutting edge mobile/home broadband option to SOHO users. Airtel are the only credible wireless broadband option to a fixed line broadband in Channel Islands.

Airtel believes that 20MHz to each eligible service provider is a better distribution as opposed to current 10MHz. This is because:

**In general, lower frequency bands (e.g. 700MHz) are well-suited to the roll-out of broad network coverage at relatively low cost. Using higher frequencies (e.g. 2.6GHz) increases the cost of coverage, but these bands are better-suited to providing the capacity necessary to meet demand for high-data rates from large numbers of users in urban areas, airports and other high traffic areas.*

**In general, LTE networks in 2x10 MHz spectrum channels will cost twice as much to deploy as services in 2x20 MHz channels, according to a study by Empiris. The study found the use of 2x5 MHz channels doubles the necessary capital expenditure again.*

I trust our response meets with your expectation and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions in this regard.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Moyse".

Lisa Moyse
Head of Roaming & Regulatory Affairs

*extracted from GSMA study on use of 2.6GHz