



PAN CHANNEL ISLAND CONSULTATION ON SPECTRUM AWARDS FOR 5G

T1468GJ

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This consultation invites comments from interested parties to inform the broader decision framework and the basis for recommendations of spectrum allocation for 700Mhz and 3.4 – 3.8 GHz spectrum to be used in the provision of 5G services¹ in the Channel Islands. The invitation to bid will come from the Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities (**CICRA**)².
- 1.2 This invitation to bid reflects a practice established between Ofcom (the independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries) and CICRA for the allocation of spectrum in the Channel Islands whereby Ofcom consults CICRA for advice about the level and nature of demand for the 5G spectrum in the Channel Islands. The allocation is dealt with by way of a call for expressions of interest by CICRA and is carried out by CICRA in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent selection process on behalf of Ofcom.
- 1.3 Following this selection process, CICRA makes a recommendation to Ofcom as to how it considers the specified spectrum should be allocated; and, Ofcom may act on the recommendation and grant Wireless Telegraphy Act licences ('WTA Licence') for spectrum use under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 provided it is satisfied CICRA's recommendation is likely to be consistent with its own statutory duties. To provide 5G services in the Channel Islands, operators will be required to hold both a valid WTA licence and a valid Jersey or Guernsey Telecommunications Act licence issued by CICRA ('operating licence'). This is explained in more detail at Section 4.
- 1.4 The Tender Document sets out the spectrum to be made available in the 700MHz and 3.4 – 3.8GHz bands by CICRA, the process that CICRA will use to award the spectrum, and the terms and conditions for the operators wishing to take part in the award. Spectrum awards will be separate across the two jurisdictions in amount and in location within each spectrum band. Separate recommendations and licences will be issued for each jurisdiction.

¹ As the spectrum under consideration for allocation may be used for a variety of services – mobile or fixed or hybrid – the term '5G' is used to describe, generically, the services that the use of 5G standards allows on spectrum that support 5G standards.

² The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) are together referred to as CICRA and unless otherwise stated, all references to CICRA in this Tender Document are to each of the JCRA and GCRA

2. TIMETABLE FOR CONSULTATION

2.1 Interested parties are invited to submit comments in writing or by email on the attached Draft Invitation to Tender, Sections 6 to 13, to one of the following addresses:

CICRA
2nd Floor, Salisbury House
1 – 9 Union Street, St Helier
Jersey, JE2 3RF
Email: info@cicra.je

CICRA
Suite 4, 1st Floor, La Plaiderie Chambers
La Plaiderie, St Peter Port
Guernsey, GY1 1WG
Email: info@cicra.gg

2.2 All comments should be clearly marked 'T1468GJ - Pan Channel Island Consultation on spectrum awards for 5G' and should arrive by 5pm on Monday 13 January 2020.

2.3 In line with CICRA's consultation policy, the Authority intends to make responses to the consultation available on the CICRA website (www.cicra.je), the combined website of the GCRA and JCRA. Any material that is confidential should be put in a separate annex and clearly marked as such so that it may be kept confidential. CICRA regrets that it is not in a position to respond individually to the response to this consultation.

3. SPECTRUM AVAILABLE FOR AWARD

3.1 The following 5G spectrum is available in the relevant bands:

- Up to 400MHz of unpaired spectrum in the 3.4-3.8GHz. The actual amount to be awarded depends on the bids and on the ability to clear existing users from the band as explained in more detail below.
- Up to 2x30 MHz of 700MHz spectrum depending on the demand for this band reflected in bids.

4. STATEMENT OF INTENT

4.1 CICRA has issued a Statement of Intent following consultation with stakeholders and the governments of Jersey and Guernsey. This is attached at Annex A.

4.2 This outlines CICRA's plan as follows:

Statement of Intent

- **CICRA intends to recommend that Ofcom award 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz 5G spectrum in two stages.**
- **Stage 1 (Current allocation): CICRA proposes to allocate a minimum amount of spectrum (40MHz of 3.4-3.8GHz spectrum per operator) to multiple operators in Jersey and in Guernsey without suitable spectrum, subject to a set of minimum requirements in terms of roll out of 5G services.**
- **Applicants will be able to apply for additional spectrum (in the 3.4-3.8GHz and 700MHz bands) if they are prepared to make commitments that exceed the minimum requirements.**
- **While the amount of spectrum to be issued will vary depending on the degree to which operators are willing to exceed the minimum requirements, some 5G spectrum (at least 100MHz of 3.4-3.8GHz) will be held back.**
- **Stage 2 (Future allocations): Further allocations of 700MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz 5G spectrum will be made when 5G technology matures and when there is more clarity over demand for 5G spectrum from new use cases and applications (e.g. from verticals).**

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The Draft Invitation to Tender is attached at Annex B. This will result in a recommendation on the award of spectrum to Ofcom during Q3 of 2020, with the new licences and with associated 5G rollout conditions coming into force towards the end of Q3 2020.

5.2 By way of this Consultation, views are sought on the issues outlined in the following sections of the attached draft:

- **Section 6: Spectrum Allocation Method**
- **Section 7: Minimum Requirements: 5G Spectrum Awards**
- **Section 8: Evaluation Criteria and Weights**
- **Section 9: Applications to provide FWA services in Guernsey**
- **Section 10: Selection Procedure**
- **Section 11: Licence Duration**
- **Section 12: Application Fee and Other Fees**
- **Section 13: Unallocated Spectrum**

5.3 Part B to the Invitation to Tender will contain the Application Procedure itself is not the subject of this consultation and will be included in the final Invitation to Tender in due course.

6. NEXT STEPS

6.1 It is CICRA's view that a reasonable timeline with the intent of providing the facility for operators to launch commercial services for 5G in early 2021 will involve the following steps.

Date	Event
November 2019	CICRA issue final joint CI Statement of Intent & draft ITT
January 2020	Assess responses from draft ITT
January / February 2020	CICRA issue ITT document for spectrum allocation
April 2020	Deadline for responses from ITT
July 2020	CICRA issue statutory Initial Notice (IN) tender winners
July 2020	CICRA recommend to Ofcom spectrum award
August 2020	CICRA publish spectrum award
August 2020	CICRA issue statutory Final Notice (FN) tender winner
September 2020	Licence commencement date

Dates approximate

6.2 All comments should be clearly marked 'T1468GJ - Pan Channel Island Consultation on spectrum awards for 5G' and should arrive by 5pm on 13 January 2020.

6.3 The Authority intends to issue the final Invitation to Tender in January 2020.