



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Current available Interleaved Spectrum within the band 470 - 790 MHz

Wireless Microphones & In-Ear Monitoring Systems

Information Notice

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1. The response to consultation 10/68¹ set out ComReg's detailed proposals for future spectrum availability for Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE).
2. At the time of publication of document 10/68, the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) Frequency Plan was still in development and the amount of interleaved spectrum available for PMSE could not therefore be accurately determined. In Section 3.2.6 of the response to consultation 10/68, ComReg committed to providing further information on the availability of future interleaved spectrum for PMSE once the DTT Frequency Plan had been finalised.
3. In August 2010², the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) published its position in relation to commercial DTT in Ireland. Following the conclusion of its competition for DTT multiplex licences, which began in 2008, the BAI announced that it was not feasible to introduce commercial DTT as originally intended until after Analogue TV Switch-off (ASO) at the earliest. The BAI also stated that it intended to review its position in relation to commercial DTT towards the end of 2011 and that it may seek expressions of interest in the provision of commercial DTT at that point. Furthermore, the authority stated that a competition could potentially be held during 2012 with a view to commercial DTT being operational in 2013. As a result, the commercial DTT Frequency Plan is unlikely to be finalised before the competition takes place later this year.
4. In the interim, ComReg has published a schedule setting out the current available interleaved spectrum within 470-790 MHz³. This document provides further clarity to PMSE users on the available interleaved spaces within 470 - 790 MHz, thereby aiding efficient spectrum use on a non-interference basis. ComReg would like to emphasise that the interleaved spaces within 470 - 790 MHz published on the website³ are subject to change once the DTT plan is finalised and Analogue TV is switched off on October 24th, 2012.
5. ComReg also notes that under section 132 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, it is obliged to make spectrum available to the BAI for commercial DTT at its request. Digital Terrestrial Television will therefore take precedence over secondary users in the band 470 – 790 MHz, including PMSE. The outcome of the BAI's review may impact upon the future availability of interleaved spectrum for PMSE use in this band.

¹ See section 5 of document 10/68 for more information.

² BAI Statement on Conclusion of Commercial DTT Multiplex Licensing Process - BAI, August 2010.

³ See document "Current Interleaved spaces within 470 - 790 MHz" at http://www.comreg.ie/_fileupload/Publications/Current_Interleaved_spaces_within_470_-_790_MHz.pdf (or) http://www.comreg.ie/radio_spectrum/search.541.489.10020.0.rslicensing.html