

Helen Damms
OFCOM

12 May 2005

Dear Helen,

Consultation on 24GHz SRR regulations

Thank you for sending us the consultation document issued on 21st April 2005 concerning proposals to exempt the use of short-range radar equipment operating in the 24 GHz frequency band from Wireless Telegraphy licensing.

The Department of Transport welcomes and supports the Ofcom proposal. We agree that it is necessary in order to allow the cost effective deployment of new and innovative vehicle safety technologies, which could contribute to road casualty reduction targets in the UK. We are aware that vehicle manufacturers are working on a variety of pedestrian and vehicle sensing systems, some of which are dependent on using 24GHz short range radar during an interim period until technology for 79 GHz radar becomes mature.

We agree that requiring individual licensing of the 24GHz transmitters would not be practical. However we are aware of concerns about interference, which other users of the 24GHz frequency band have raised with Ofcom. We note that the EC Decision contains powers to prevent new 24GHz equipment entering the market if interference does occur and causes problems for existing users of the frequency band. We trust that Ofcom will monitor the situation.

The Department of Transport acknowledges its responsibility to assist Ofcom to monitor the penetration of 24GHz radar into new vehicles. We expect to communicate further with Ofcom on this subject in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Lowe