



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Sir Chris Bryant MP
Minister of State for Data Protection and Telecoms
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
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Dame Chi Onwurah MP
Chair
Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

10 July 2025

Dear Dame Chi,

I am writing to inform the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee of two government publications that will help ensure we make the best use of spectrum to drive growth and support our public services: the findings from the DSIT-funded regulatory Spectrum Sandboxes, and a Public Sector Spectrum Framework, both published yesterday.

Spectrum is a strategically important resource that is essential for all wireless technologies from our mobile phones, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth devices to aircraft navigation and space applications, among others. The surge in new wireless services and the growing need for connectivity everywhere are resulting in an increased demand for this resource. Efficient and innovative use of spectrum – including through spectrum sharing – is therefore increasingly important to promote the most effective use of these finite radio frequencies.

Both the Spectrum Sandboxes and the Public Sector Spectrum Framework exemplify the government's commitment to spectrum innovation and efficiency as a means of delivering connectivity to people and businesses across the country and unlocking sustained economic growth.

The Spectrum Sandbox programme concluded in March 2025. In collaboration with UK academia, industry, and Ofcom, this 12-month, £5 million DSIT-funded initiative has provided useful insights about how the UK could enhance spectrum sharing and innovation.

Key findings from the sandboxes highlight how mobile and Wi-Fi networks could access spectrum simultaneously, unlocking greater value and growth potential than if use of the spectrum were limited to just one technology. The sandboxes also generated insights into potential improvements to Ofcom's Shared Access Framework, which enables localised access to spectrum, including potential ways to streamline the licence approval process. This Framework provides access to spectrum for smaller businesses and market entrants, enabling innovative applications such as Fixed Wireless Access in rural areas, support for 5G broadcasting as used at His Majesty The King's Coronation, and advanced connectivity in enterprise settings, such as factories. Faster access to these licences could increase uptake and therefore enable benefits for local operators, innovators and businesses across the UK.

The public sector also has an important role to play in using spectrum effectively and efficiently. Through the new Public Sector Spectrum Framework, we are taking steps to enhance departments and agencies' use of spectrum, and therefore improve the performance and productivity of government, while also facilitating new opportunities for shared access to spectrum.

It is important to ensure that Crown spectrum users have access to the spectrum they need to support government priorities and deliver critical services. At the same time, we want to ensure Crown use of spectrum is as efficient as possible and supports access to valuable spectrum bands for commercial applications, where appropriate.

The Framework's emphasis on regularly reviewing Crown spectrum use and introducing innovative sharing approaches supports DSIT's broader goal of maximising spectrum access, which we expect to unlock wider connectivity benefits.

Spectrum underpins all wireless technologies. These technologies increasingly form the backbone of our economy. It is therefore essential that the UK is managing and using this finite resource as efficiently and effectively as possible. The publications I am drawing to your attention today both highlight steps the UK can take to enable access for the varied users and services that rely on spectrum. My officials will be working closely with Ofcom to ensure that the findings of the sandboxes inform spectrum management where appropriate, and with other government departments and agencies to implement the new public sector spectrum framework.

I will place a copy of this letter, the Spectrum Sandboxes publications, and the Public Sector Spectrum Framework in the libraries of the House.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Bryant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Chris Bryant MP
Minister of State