

# T-105 spectrum strategy

# Call for information

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## Contents

1	Overview and summary	3
2	Introduction and background	5
3	Spectrum policy guiding factors	10
4	Spectrum focus 1: frequency allocations above 3.8 GHz	16
5	Spectrum focus 2: frequency allocations up-to-3.8 GHz	21
6	Other spectrum matters	26
7	Next steps	30
Ann	ex A: present local spectrum allocations	32

## 1 Overview and summary

- 1.1 The duties of the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (the Authority) include protecting and furthering the long-term interests of local users of telecom services and apparatus by promoting competition among persons engaged in commercial telecom activities.
- 1.2 Access to allocations of radio spectrum is an important enabler (or disabler) of commercial telecommunications activities. Spectrum allows wireless connection between user devices and communication networks, supporting a diverse range of systems, services and applications from mobile phones to Bluetooth key fobs. Because of demand for this finite resource, access to spectrum is controlled through licensing arrangements and management policies.
- 1.3 Under the Wireless Telegraphy Act, UK communications regulator Ofcom has legal responsibility for licensing and managing Jersey's spectrum. By agreement, the Authority supports this process through assessing interest and demand in local spectrum before making specific recommendations to Ofcom for the issuing of new licences or managing existing ones.
- 1.4 Decisions on spectrum licence recommendations or management should ideally take place within a wider strategic framework which can help ensure long-term transparency and consistency, and which takes relevant influencing factors into account. These could include changes in technology, economic conditions and considerations, government policy intentions, competitive levels and outlook, etc.
- 1.5 The Authority is developing a spectrum strategy taking into account these factors while also focusing on two important spectrum areas needing strategic consideration at this time:
  - i. Approach to local frequencies above 3.8 GHz, which have been released or are being released in the UK predominantly for new 5G services; and
  - ii. Approach to local frequencies up-to-3.8 GHz, which are licensed or intended for use with existing 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G services.
- 1.6 This Call for Information is issued to invite opinion and input on the planned strategic approach and principles associated with allocating and licensing these frequencies and other areas of spectrum interest. Because of the importance of gaining as wide as possible views on this matter, the Authority also plans to engage with a range of stakeholders, including government, industry and the digital sector before making and consulting on a provisional strategy.
- 1.7 In particular, the Authority welcomes responses to the following questions:

**Question 1**: Do you have any comments on the Authority's plans to develop a local spectrum strategy and proposed approach?

Question 2: Do you have any comments on the Authority's updated spectrum objectives?

**Question 3**: Do you have any comments on the Authority's approach to retaining a close alignment between spectrum decisions in the UK and Jersey?

**Question 4**: Do you have any comments on Government of Jersey policies or expectations relating to the future licensing and management of local spectrum?

**Question 5**: Do you have any views or comments on future demand for local spectrum and steps that should be taken to ensure these are met?

**Question 6**: Do you have any views or comments on the optimum local approach to opening-up the 3.8-4.2 GHz band in Jersey?

**Question 7**: Do you have any views or comments on the local approach to designating the mmWave band in Jersey and on the appropriate timing for an allocation and licensing process?

**Question 8**: Do you have any specific interest in the historically unallocated and unlicensed local spectrum allocations in 2G/3G/4G bands between 800 MHz and 2600 MHz, or views or comments on the ideal future regulatory approach towards them?

**Question 9**: Do you have any specific interest in the currently unallocated and unlicensed local 5G Full Service or Limited Service spectrum packages, or views or comments on future regulatory approach towards them?

**Question 10**: Do you have any specific interest in the current spectrum allocations licensed to Airtel that will become available for reallocation in the future, or views or comments on future regulatory approach towards them?

**Question 11**: Do you have any views or comments on the other spectrum matters listed in Section 6 of this Call for Information or any others that should form part of the Authority's spectrum strategy?

1.8 The Call for Information closes on 30 May 2025. After assessing responses received along with information gained through specific stakeholder engagement, the Authority plans to issue a Draft Spectrum Strategy for public consultation at the end of Q3 2025. The final Spectrum Strategy will follow in Q4 2025, followed by scheduled and prioritised specific projects to carry out spectrum licensing and management activity.

## 2 Introduction and background

- 2.1 This section introduces the subject of radio spectrum in Jersey and provides background information on the Call for Information. Its contents include:
  - Purpose of document
  - Spectrum context
  - Developing a local spectrum strategy
  - Legal and regulatory context
  - The planned process and timetable
  - How to respond

## Purpose of document

- 2.2 This document is a Call for Information that discusses, and asks for input on, the future approach and principles guiding the allocation and licensing of radio spectrum in Jersey. Specifically, the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (the **Authority**) is seeking views on two important areas needing consideration at this time:
  - i. Approach to local frequencies above 3.8 GHz, which have been released or are being released in the UK predominantly for new 5G services; and
  - ii. Approach to local frequencies up-to-3.8 GHz, which are licensed or intended for use with existing 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G services.
- 2.3 Understanding views about these and other matters is the first step in a process the Authority intends using to create and issue a spectrum strategy to ensure there is a holistic framework within which specific spectrum designation and licencing activities will take place during the next five years.

#### Spectrum context

#### The use and importance of spectrum

- 2.4 Spectrum is the invisible radio waves that travel through the air, space and solid materials. This property allows its use for wirelessly connecting all manner of devices to each other and to the transmitters / receivers used by communications providers to connect users to their networks. The systems, services and applications that use this technology are almost endless in the modern world, including mobile phones, home Wi-Fi, satellite connections, televisions and radio, baby monitors and car key fobs.
- 2.5 The radio waves used for communications form the lower part of the wider electromagnetic spectrum, just below infrared and visible light. As Figure 1 below shows, the frequency of radio waves change from the lowest to the highest frequency throughout the spectrum, starting with 1 Hertz (Hz), or one

cycle per second, and rising to terahertz (THz), which is trillions of cycles per second. Different applications are designed to operate at different frequences.

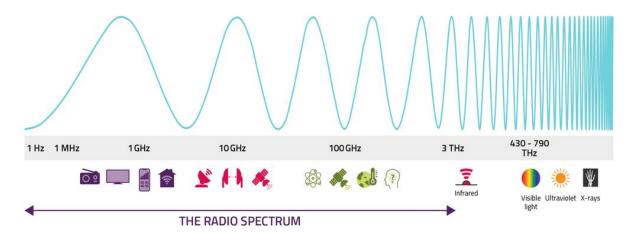


Figure 1: The electromagnetic spectrum

2.6 Spectrum is a finite resource, with demand for its use constantly growing as more and more wireless systems, services and applications emerge and people increase reliance on services such as mobile broadband. Because uncontrolled access can lead to interference between users, there are regulations in place to licence access to spectrum and manage potential misuse.

#### Spectrum licensing in Jersey

- 2.7 The Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (the **WTA**),<sup>1</sup> established UK communications regulator Ofcom as legally responsible for licensing and managing UK spectrum. Because of the technical expertise involved, Jersey's government extended the WTA to the Island through the Wireless Telegraphy (Jersey) Order 2006,<sup>2</sup> which made Ofcom legally responsible for licensing and managing local spectrum. Ofcom also represents the Crown Dependencies at international forums negotiating and agreeing the future use of spectrum, such as for 6G.
- 2.8 In this role, Ofcom makes many non-contentious decisions about local spectrum licencing, typically extending access and conditions established in the UK to Jersey (and the other Crown Dependencies). Creating licence-exempt spectrum for use with public and private Wi-Fi networks and services, for example, or licensing spectrum for communications satellites or fixed-wireless connections. While holding legal responsibilities for Jersey's spectrum, in these circumstances, Ofcom will liaise with the Authority to ensure understanding and avoid confusion.
- 2.9 Ofcom also cooperates closely with the Authority on the processes involved in specific local spectrum licensing and management, typically for spectrum bands widely designated for important

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> States of Jersey, Wireless Telegraphy (Jersey) Order 2006 – see <a href="here">here</a> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> States of Jersey, The Wireless Telegraphy (Jersey) Order 2006 – see <a href="here">here</a> for more information.

communication networks and services, such as 5G.<sup>3</sup> The broad arrangement in these circumstances is that the Authority will carry out structured processes for assessing local interest in and demand for these bands before making recommendations to Ofcom for issuing licences to use specific spectrum allocations. The Authority may also ask Ofcom to attach specific technical or other relevant condition to spectrum licences, or apply these through local telecoms licence conditions or in separate agreements with spectrum licensees.

- 2.10 Depending on the licence issued, Ofcom may charge an annual or other periodic fee for local spectrum allocations, according to scales set-out in its Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) Regulations 2020 (amended from time-to-time).<sup>4</sup> Ofcom remits fees for spectrum licences received from local telecoms providers to the Jersey Government.
- 2.11 The Authority also cooperates with Ofcom in the management of existing local spectrum licences, which can include modifying certain conditions or carrying out activities that may be necessary to clear certain spectrum bands redesignated for use with new networks and services.

## Developing a local spectrum strategy

- 2.12 In almost all cases, decisions to designate or allocate spectrum have long-term consequences and interrelated considerations. Developing and implementing a local spectrum strategy offers the opportunity to take a comprehensive approach, evaluating a broad range of factors that may influence spectrum decisions.
- 2.13 Key drivers for the Authority at this time are the approach to take towards several bands currently being licensed or considered for specialised 5G-related networks and services and the outcome of Sure's recent acquisition of Airtel in Jersey<sup>5</sup>, which will result in the release of several key currently allocated spectrum blocks.
- 2.14 The Authority plans a three-step process for developing the spectrum strategy, as shown in Figure 2 below:

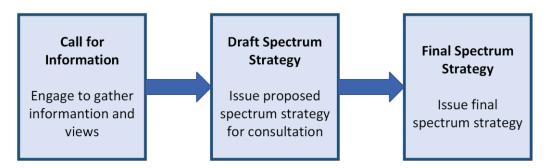


Figure 2: Planned case structure

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The International Telecoms Union (ITU) sets global frequency assignments and technical standards, which regional bodies such as the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) adopt and adapt to create local harmonisation between national regulators, telecoms providers and equipment vendors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ofcom, The Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) Regulations 2020 – see here for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Approved by the Authority in August 2024 – see here for <u>more</u> information.

2.15 Alongside issuing this Call for Information, the Authority intends carrying out specific engagement with key stakeholders during the Call for Information step, including with the local telecoms industry, Government of Jersey, other regulators and representatives of the wider local digital and other relevant industries.

## Legal and regulatory context

- 2.16 The duties of the Authority include protecting and furthering the long-term interests of users within Jersey of telecom services and apparatus by promoting competition among persons engaged in commercial telecom activities.
- 2.17 When carrying out its duties, the Authority must act in accordance with its statutory obligations which include a primary duty to ensure that telecom services are provided within Jersey to satisfy all current and prospective demands for them. Part 3 of the Jersey Law includes several specific duties including:
  - (a) To protect the short-term and long-term interests of Islanders using telecoms services; and
  - (b) To further the economic interests of Jersey.
- 2.18 The Authority places particular weight on points shown in Paragraph 2.17 above in respect of this Call for Information and the proposals contained. It interprets the former as an obligation to ensure that the maximum number of Islanders can access future mobile services and the latter as an obligation to ensure Jersey has future mobile services that are beneficial to customers / increase consumer welfare.
- 2.19 This Call for Information is a non-statutory Call for Information that outlines potential approaches for designating and allocating key spectrum bands in Jersey, providing relevant contextual information and additional details for consideration. The Authority is issuing to invite an as wide as possible range of views on this important subject before progressing to make draft then final decisions.

## The planned process and timetable

- 2.20 Although the subject of this consultation does not relate to a specified statutory function, we intend broadly following a structure based on the process set-out in Article 11 of the Jersey Law, which requires engagement and consultation before making important decisions.
- 2.21 The timetable, which may be subject to change, for completing the process is:

Mar 2025	Open Call for Information consultation and engage stakeholders
May 2025	Close Call for Information consultation and consider responses / information received
Q3 2025	Issue Draft Spectrum Strategy for consultation
Q4 2025	Issue Final Spectrum Strategy

**Question 1**: Do you have any comments on the Authority's plans to develop a local spectrum strategy and proposed approach?

## 3 Spectrum policy guiding factors

- 3.1 In this section the Authority identifies and examines several high-level principles that will help shape draft and final spectrum policies. Its contents include:
  - Introduction
  - Guiding factor 1: the Authority's stated spectrum objectives
  - Guiding factor 2: aligning with Ofcom policies and plans
  - Guiding factor 3: aligning with GoJ policy and expectations
  - Guiding factor 4: anticipating future demand for wireless services

#### Introduction

- 3.2 The development of a spectrum strategy for Jersey does not start with a blank sheet of paper. A mix of earlier decisions, situational considerations, influencing policies and potential future developments exist and need taking into account within any strategic decisions.
- 3.3 In this section, the Authority highlights and examines several of these guiding factors which once fully established, will help shape the approach to developing specific strategic spectrum policies.

## Guiding factor 1: the Authority's stated spectrum objectives

- 3.4 The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authority (CICRA) developed several overarching spectrum objectives to help guide its development of specific policies and decisions on the allocation and awarding of local spectrum.<sup>6</sup>
- 3.5 The Authority believes that these objectives remain largely relevant, providing strong direction for making spectrum decisions and ensuring transparency for those impacted by them. The planned approach is to retain but update these spectrum objectives to reflect present conditions, as shown in Table 1 below:

F	Ref	Original CICRA spectrum objective	New JCRA spectrum objective		
	1	To promote competition as a mechanism to further its consumer interest objective	To promote competition as a mechanism to further its consumer, market and economic interest objectives		
	2	To further consumers' interests in the short and long term, having regard to prices and	To create value for Jersey through focus on the short- and long-term interests of		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> CICRA was the merged Guernsey and Jersey competition and regulatory authorities that existed between 2010 and 2020 when it was unwound and duties reverted to the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) and the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA).

Ref	Original CICRA spectrum objective	New JCRA spectrum objective		
	costs, and the availability and range of services suitable to consumers' different needs	consumers and organisations, having regard to prices and costs, and the availability and range of services suitable to different local needs.		
3	To seek to ensure the processes and criteria adopted by CICRA are consistent with Ofcom's duties, including the duty to secure the optimal use of wireless telegraphy of the electromagnetic spectrum	To seek to ensure the processes and criteria adopted by the JCRA are consistent with Ofcom's duties, including the duty to secure the optimal use of wireless telegraphy of the electromagnetic spectrum.		
4	To have regard to and, where it lies within its powers and is practicable, to lessen the impact of the spectrum dependent activities it regulates on the environment	Work with Guernsey where possible for economic benefits and to prevent harmful interference through aligning spectrum		
5	To the extent allowed by legislation, to deal with the Jersey and Guernsey Bailiwicks as a single economic and social entity	licencing across the Channel Islands.		

Table 1: Updated spectrum objectives

3.6 Based on the above considerations, the Authority plans to use these objectives as guiding principles both with decisions about the present spectrum strategy and future spectrum policy decisions.

Question 2: Do you have any comments on the Authority's updated spectrum objectives?

#### Guiding factor 2: aligning with Ofcom policies and plans

- 3.7 Ofcom recognises the licencing and management of UK spectrum as a key responsibility, devoting significant attention and resources to fulfilling the role. Among its activities are:
  - Representing British interests at international forums deciding the future use of spectrum;
  - Seeking innovation in spectrum allocation and application to optimise its use;
  - Making spectrum available for use through structured processes providing allocations needing a specific licence or through licence-exempt arrangements;
  - Carrying out the spectrum management process, which may mean modifying or revoking licences from time-to-time; and
  - Investigating spectrum interference issues and taking enforcement action if needed to protect legitimate use of spectrum.

- 3.8 Through the arrangements explained in Section 2 above, Ofcom's spectrum role and responsibilities for these activities and others extend to Jersey (and the other Crown Dependencies). Ofcom represents Jersey's interests at international spectrum forums, for example, and issues and manages local spectrum licences. Ofcom is also responsible for investigating spectrum interference in Jersey. This creates a close alignment between spectrum decisions in the UK and Jersey.
- 3.9 Although this arrangement has been beneficial to date, the Authority could pursue a more localised approach to certain elements of spectrum management. It could choose to specify technologies for certain spectrum bands that are different to those used in the UK, for example, or adopt more innovative licensing arrangements, potentially allowing greater levels of spectrum sharing.
- 3.10 However, choosing to become less aligned with the UK presents considerable challenges. Aside from taking Ofcom's designated legal role into account, the Authority would need to develop or gain access to the necessary spectrum expertise and experience to guarantee sound technical decision-making. It would also risk Jersey being misaligned with global developments in technology and services.
- 3.11 On balance, the Authority believes the benefits of remaining closely aligned with the UK on spectrum decisions outweigh any potential advantages that may arise through greater independence. As a result, the Authority intends continuing to monitor Ofcom's spectrum-related activities to identify and understand those needing local decision-making and accommodating those that do not. Others can be ignored because they relate to UK-specific conditions not applicable to Jersey, such as initiatives to fill-in mobile coverage or lack of fibre broadband.
- 3.12 This leaves the principal area of interest for a Jersey spectrum strategy as the approach to making spectrum available for use through structured processes providing allocations needing a specific licence or made available through licence-exempt arrangements. Based on the Authority's spectrum objectives, this process typically involves assessing local interest in and demand for new or redesignated bands under consideration in the UK, creating and offering spectrum allocations to local telecoms providers and setting the terms and conditions of access.

**Question 3**: Do you have any comments on the Authority's approach to retaining a close alignment between spectrum decisions in the UK and Jersey?

## Guiding factor 3: aligning with GoJ policy and priorities

- 3.13 Given the importance of wireless and mobile services to local organisations and residents, the Government of Jersey (GoJ) has a significant interest in the licensing and management of local spectrum. Alongside its own spectrum objectives, the Authority takes strong account of published and conveyed GoJ legislation principles and policies.
- 3.14 GoJ published a Telecoms Strategy and Action Plan in 2018 that included spectrum related actions, including several allocated to the Authority that have since been completed.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Reference – see here.

- 3.15 GoJ has further considered and contributed a framework of spectrum related points for the Authority to consider when developing a spectrum strategy, summarised as:
  - (a) Support for government policies: telecoms legislation, GoJ 2018 telecoms strategy and action plan, international and free trade agreements, digital economy strategy, competition policy and law, future economy programme including the five key themes of the sustainable development strategy, resilient economy, innovative economy, skilled economy, fair economy and international economy.
  - (b) Other opportunities for spectrum-related focus:

Category	GoJ input
Economic	Consider the economic benefits for Jersey, both general and sector specific. The latter could include ensuring spectrum is available and licenced to allow improved site specific largescale operations, such as port activities, or application specific, such as freight tracking.
Innovation	Consider and support local sectors that may benefit from access to spectrum for trials, particularly those focused on areas in which Jersey has a natural or competitive advantage, with the 2024 drone trial being an example.  Also consider innovation in how local licensing and management approaches could help promote opportunities for local service and application trials.
Environment	Taking the experience of other jurisdictions into account, consider the need to protect Jersey's natural environment through minimising the impact of telecoms infrastructure such as masts while ensuring efficient new network rollout or upgrades. This may involve considering and recommending changes to planning and other regulations that may restrict the optimum use of local spectrum.
Investment	Consider how the approach to spectrum allocation can encourage and support present and future telecoms provider investment in network and services. This includes enabling 5G network launch and roll-out, considering satellite communications spectrum requirements and ensuring a smooth path to future technologies such as 6G.
Ubiquity	Consider the need for ubiquitous mobile coverage to help meet the expectations of Islanders using their devices to remain informed, in touch and connected from both a personal and professional perspective.
Efficiency	Consider spectrum as a valuable and scarce resource, ensuring key bands are not left unassigned or unused. Take appropriate steps to manage spectrum allocation in a way that is effective for the timely development of new services and efficient in maximising the use of available spectrum. This encompasses present activities

Category	GoJ input
	to sunset certain existing mobile technologies, such as 3G, and reuse the spectrum for newer services and applications.
Fees	Consider the principle of fair and consistent approach to spectrum licence fees across allocations, ensuring that principles adopted for Jersey do not prevent the efficient and effective use of spectrum to support economic growth, network investment and wider mobile coverage.
Consumer	Consider local telecoms law duties requiring the Authority to protect the short- and long-term interests of local users, who will benefit from Island-wide, modern mobile networks with metrics established to measure quality.  Steps taken to limit potential harm are important, such as accidentally roaming onto networks of adjacent jurisdictions while in Jersey.
Alignment	Consider strengthening the Authority's alignment and relationship with Ofcom, which has an important legal and advisory role in the licensing and management of local spectrum. Where appropriate, extend this aligned approach to other relevant regulatory organisations such as the EU.

Table 3: Government of Jersey guiding expectations on local spectrum matters

**Question 4**: Do you have any comments on Government of Jersey policies or expectations relating to the future licensing and management of local spectrum?

## Guiding factor 4: anticipating future demand for wireless services

- 3.16 The systems, services and applications that use spectrum are rapidly evolving, making it crucial to ensure the timely and appropriate availability of the necessary allocations and licenses. Alignment with Ofcom's strategic spectrum process will provide the Island a degree of future certainty. However, it remains important for the Authority to ensure it understands local future demand for wireless services and intentions and expectations of those organisations planning to meet it.
- 3.17 As part of this Call for Information, the Authority aims to assess future local demand for wireless services and the spectrum allocations required to meet that demand. Specifically, it would be helpful to understand:

What are the use cases?

Use cases refer to specific scenarios or applications where a particular technology, service, or product is applied to meet the needs of users or solve particular problems. What are those that are specific to Jersey in future years?

# Where will demand come from?

Demand refers to identifying the sources and factors that will drive the need for spectrum in the future. As technologies evolve and new applications emerge, demand for spectrum will come from a variety of sectors. What are the key drivers of spectrum demand across various local industries, technologies and customer groups?

Which organisations will be involved in meeting demand?

Organisations refers to identifying the various stakeholders and entities that develop and operate the systems, services and applications involved in providing future wireless services. What are the spectrum intentions and expectations of local organisations involved?

#### Table 4: Future spectrum demand assessment framework

3.18 Given the importance of assessing and identifying future local needs for spectrum, the Authority intends engaging with local stakeholders to assess and gain insights in this area and welcomes views and comments.

**Question 5**: Do you have any views or comments on future demand for local spectrum and steps that should be taken to ensure these are met?

## 4 Spectrum focus 1: frequency allocations above 3.8 GHz

- 4.1 In this section the Authority discusses and asks for input on a specific range of spectrum frequencies under consideration for new 5G services. Its contents include:
  - Introduction
  - Approach to allocating and licensing the 3.8-4.2 GHz band
  - Approach to allocating and licensing the mmWave band

#### Introduction

- 4.2 The Authority is following the development of additional spectrum bands for present and future 5G services in the UK and elsewhere. There are two bands in this category
  - The 3.8-4.2 GHz band
  - The mmWave band
- 4.3 Before making provisional decisions for inclusion within the Draft Spectrum Strategy, the Authority welcomes views and comments on potential uses for these bands, approaches to allocating and licensing, and appropriate timetables for addressing.

## Approach to allocating and licensing the 3.8-4.2 GHz band

4.4 The 3.8-4.2 GHz band is a 400 GHz spectrum block adjacent to the primary band for 5G mobile services, the 3.4-3.8 GHz band. For this reason, countries are considering its use for 5G-based technologies, potentially focused on support for specialist industry applications, such as for campus-based port operations, or extending geographic wireless broadband coverage.<sup>8</sup> In the UK, Ofcom has already adopted this approach, as summarised in Box 1 below.

#### Box 1: Ofcom licensing of the 3.8-4.2 GHz band

Ofcom has already made decisions on the use of this band, making it available as a 'shared access band'. <sup>9</sup> Under this principle, telecoms providers can apply for licences covering a limited geographical footprint in one of two arrangements:

Low power Authorises telecoms providers to deploy as many base stations as they require within a circular area with a radius of 50 metres.

Ideal for use with small-scale campus-area private network deployments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The EU is considering harmonising the 3.8-4.2 GHz band across Europe for use with private 5G services – see <u>here</u> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ofcom, Enabling Wireless Innovation Through Local Licensing – see here for more information.

Medium power Authorises telecoms providers to deploy a single base station solely in rural areas which can connect to fixed, nomadic or mobile terminals.

Ideal for use with Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services in areas lacking fixed broadband access or industrial or enterprise users on sites spread over a larger area.

Ofcom charges a low fee for shared access licences but applies certain limiting terms and conditions in addition to the lower power arrangements shown above. Telecoms providers may need to change frequencies from time-to-time, for example, to accommodate spectrum planning or limit interference, and any unused Spectrum allocations automatically become available to other applicants.

The approach to the 3.8-4.2 GHz band has proved popular in the UK, with over 500 licences issued in this band by November 2024. Typical reported shared access uses include ports and construction, content production, industrial IoT, logistics and distribution, rural wireless access.

- 4.5 The 3.8-4.2 GHz band is currently unused on the Island and may therefore be available for allocation, either through an approach similar to those used elsewhere or through an alternative method. The Authority does not have a firmly established position on the use of this band but considers the following points to be relevant:
  - There is a significant amount of potentially usable spectrum in this band, which is being made available for deploying 5G-based services in the UK and elsewhere it is important to consider it and ensure optimal usage;
  - Aligning any local technical approach with Ofcom and elsewhere will provide efficiencies through availability of infrastructure vendors are designing network equipment and terminals to work with 5G applications in this band;
  - There may be a need to create 'commercial boundaries' between this potentially new 5G spectrum band and those recently allocated in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band for 5G 'Full Service' spectrum packages, created for Island-wide use in 2022 allocations in the UK 3.8-4.2 GHz band are being provided on a limited geographic basis, for example, rather than nationally; and
  - The fundamental difference between UK and Jersey in terms of scale and demand the Island has virtually complete mobile network coverage and potentially less demand for many of the industrial use cases driving growth in the UK.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ofcom, Enhancing the Shared Access Frame, p6 – see here for more information.

 $<sup>^{11}</sup>$  Ofcom also issues licenses in other frequency bands using the same shared access principle – 1800 MHz, 2.3 GHz and 26 GHz

**Question 6**: Do you have any views or comments on the optimum local approach to opening-up the 3.8-4.2 GHz band in Jersey?

## Approach to allocating and licensing the mmWave band

- 4.6 Internationally agreed 5G standards designate three potential spectrum bands for use with deploying new 5G wireless networks and services:
  - i. Low-band spectrum: typically around 700 MHz and ideal for providing coverage over wider distances inside buildings;
  - ii. **Mid-band spectrum**: typically around 3.5 GHz and ideal for providing high-capacity data connectivity; and
  - iii. **High-band spectrum** (the mmWave band): typically above 6 GHz and offering ultra-high speed, low latency coverage in high density areas.
- 4.7 The GSM Association views the mmWave band as necessary for fully unlocking the future potential of 5G, through allowing telecoms providers to deploy the coordinated, multi-layer approach enabled by a combination of the three designated bands. Use cases envisaged for the mmWave band include interactive gaming, industrial automation, extended reality services such as virtual reality, driverless cars and healthcare. 13
- 4.8 In Jersey, the Authority has already made Low-band and Mid-band spectrum available with two licences issued by Ofcom comprising allocations in the 700 MHz band and 3.4-3.8 GHz band. In the UK, Ofcom is currently carrying out a process planned to make High-band spectrum available alongside Low- and Mid-band, as summarised in Box 2 below.

#### Box 2: Ofcom licensing of the mmWave band

Ofcom believes the mmWave band will be an important enabler of new wireless services, which have the potential to deliver significant benefits to UK consumers and businesses. On the other hand, there is recognition that commercial use cases for deployments in the High-band are still evolving and limited to date.<sup>15</sup>

Aligned with other international standardisations, Ofcom has designated 6.25 GHz of spectrum in the 26 GHz and 40 GHz bands for licensing to deploy mmWave band services. Both are currently used for other applications, so require clearing or coordination to avoid interference.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The GSMA is an industry-led body that aims to drive unified development of mobile systems, services and applications.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> GSMA, 5G mmWave: Unlocking the Full Potential of 5G – see <a href="here">here</a> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> JCRA, 5G Spectrum Award (2022) – see <u>here</u> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Ofcom, Consultation: Enabling mmWave Spectrum for New Uses – see <a href="here">here</a> for more information.

Ofcom is making spectrum for mmWave band networks available through two licensing approaches, as summarised below:

High density areas

Covering major towns and cities where there is an expectation the most widespread deployment of mmWave spectrum for new uses will occur. Ofcom is making licences available in these locations through an auction process.

Low density areas Covering less populated rural areas where there is an expectation of sparser deployments that are more highly localised. Ofcom is making licences available in these locations through its Shared Access licensing framework on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

After delaying while the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) considered a proposed merger between Vodafone and H3G, Ofcom expects to begin the auction for new mmWave band allocations in 2025.<sup>16</sup>

- 4.9 The mmWave band is currently unused in the Island, and therefore potentially available for allocation using a similar approach to elsewhere or something different. The Authority provisionally believes the appropriate approach is making this locally available for high-capacity Island-wide 5G coverage, with the following points considered relevant:
  - Defined and internationally agreed technical standards designate three 5G spectrum categories: Low-band, Medium-band and High-band – for completeness and consistency, Jersey should follow the same approach.
  - Generally harmonising the 26 GHz and 40 GHz spectrum allocations as the 5G mmWave band in the UK and elsewhere leads to vendors producing network infrastructure and devices designed to work within these frequencies Jersey telecoms providers and users will benefit from this trend.
  - Use cases for the type of high density, high capacity mmWave services defined elsewhere are less clear for Jersey, given local conditions including geographic constraints, population size and type of industries present in the Island however, spectrum decisions should take long-term considerations into account, and not create barriers to the potential future deployment of important but currently undefined user requirements and technology developments.
- 4.10 Taking these considerations into account, the Authority's provisional view is to designate the 26 GHz and 40 GHz bands as the 5G High-band, and make them available for allocation within a future reasonable timeframe.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Ofcom, 16 December 2024 – Ofcom sets out the timeframe for mmWave spectrum auction – see <a href="here">here</a> for more information.

**Question 7**: Do you have any views or comments on the local approach to designating the mmWave band in Jersey and on the appropriate timing for an allocation and licensing process?

# 5 Spectrum focus 2: frequency allocations up-to-3.8 GHz

- 5.1 In this section the Authority discusses and asks for views on potential approaches to a range of local frequencies up-to-3.8 GHz, which are currently licensed or intended for use with existing 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G services. Its contents include:
  - Introduction
  - Consideration of various frequency allocations up-to-3.8 GHz

#### Introduction

- 5.2 The evolution of mobile networks in the UK over recent decades has resulted in a range of frequency spectrum allocations between 800 MHz and 2600 MHz, designated as key bands for 2G, 3G, and 4G networks. More recently, additional frequency blocks in the 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz bands have been allocated for the deployment of 5G networks and services.
- 5.3 In Jersey, the Authority, and its predecessor CICRA, progressively considered these key bands through structured regulatory processes before recommending Ofcom issues appropriate spectrum licences. The most recent of these was inviting applications for 5G spectrum and recommending that Ofcom award two licences for allocations in the 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz bands.<sup>17</sup>
  - (See Annex A for the full table of local spectrum allocations.)
- 5.4 Several spectrum blocks up-to-3.8 GHz remain unlicensed, presenting an opportunity for allocation to current or new telecoms providers for enhancing existing services or introducing new ones. Additionally, Sure's acquisition of Airtel will release several currently licensed spectrum blocks once the takeover is fully complete. In summary, these blocks can be grouped as follows:
  - Historic: unlicensed allocations in 2G/3G/4G bands between 800 MHz and 2600 MHz
  - Present: unlicensed 5G allocations in the 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz bands
  - Future: Allocations in the 2G/3G/4G bands being released following Sure's acquisition of Airtel.

The subsections below explain more about these spectrum blocks individually and discuss potential approaches to allocating each.

- 5.5 The Authority intends to evaluate these spectrum blocks as a whole, adopting a strategic approach to their potential allocation and licensing arrangements. Options include but are not limited to:
  - Create a package of spectrum blocks allowing a potentially new MNO develop a range of 2G/3G/4G/5G services in Jersey;
  - Make them available for allocation to present MNOs in Jersey, to potentially enhance existing networks and services; or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Issued to JT and Sure.

- Hold the spectrum unallocated for a period, potentially while future consumer and business demand becomes clearer.
- 5.6 The Authority welcomes feedback and comments on these and other potential options from interested parties.

## Consideration of various frequency allocations up-to-3.8 GHz

#### Historic: unlicensed allocations in 2G/3G/4G bands between 800 MHz and 2600 MHz

- 5.7 The development of mobile services in the UK over recent decades led to a range of spectrum allocations between 800 MHz and 2600 MHz designated as key bands for providing 2G, 3G and 4G networks. In Jersey, the Authority, and its predecessor CICRA, have assessed local interest in and demand for these bands through structured processes before recommending Ofcom issue appropriate spectrum licences.
- 5.8 While these allocations and licensing processes served to make sufficient spectrum available to local telecoms providers, there are certain currently unallocated and unlicensed spectrum blocks within the historic 2G, 3G and 4G bands (5G bands are addressed separately below). Table 5 below summarises these unallocated and unlicensed local spectrum blocks.

Spectrum band <sup>18</sup>	ectrum band <sup>18</sup> Total spectrum available <sup>19</sup>		Currently unlicensed	
1400 MHz	1400 MHz 40 MHz		40 MHz	
1800 MHz	75 MHz x2	60 MHz x2	15 MHz x2	
1900 MHz	20 MHz	15 MHz	5 MHz	
1900/2100 MHz	60 MHz x2	55 MHz x2	5 MHz x2 <sup>20</sup>	
2300 MHz	2300 MHz 40 MHz 2600 MHz 70 MHz x2		40 MHz	
2600 MHz			10 MHz x2	

Table 5: Currently unallocated and unlicensed local spectrum blocks

5.9 There have been no recent formal requests to access these currently unlicensed spectrum allocations. However, the Authority would like to understand whether potential interest exists or views on the appropriate approach to considering these bands for local usage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Ofcom, Frequency Allocations Channel Islands (2024) – see here for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> x2 denotes spectrum allocations designed to provision in two separate allocations allowing time division technologies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Set aside by Ofcom as guard bands – used to prevent interference between users.

**Question 8**: Do you have any specific interest in the historically unallocated and unlicensed local spectrum allocations in 2G/3G/4G bands between 800 MHz and 2600 MHz, or views or comments on the ideal future regulatory approach towards them?

#### Recent: unlicensed allocations in the 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz bands

5.10 In 2022, the Authority issued a statement of intent making available allocations in the 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz bands, designated for use with 5G services.<sup>21</sup> This created two different spectrum packages, as shown in Table 5 below, with the Full Service packages available through a structured comparative evaluation process, and Limited Service packages available on application:

Up to three x Full
Service spectrum
packages

Intended for Island-wide networks providing publicly available services for the maximum number of users, with each package comprising:

- a) Up-to-100 MHz contiguous spectrum in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band; and
- b) 20 MHz (2 x 10 MHz paired) spectrum in the 700 MHz band

## Multiple Limited Service spectrum packages

Intended for potentially limited coverage networks providing either publicly available or private services for a potentially limited number of users, with each package having:

a) Up-to-30 MHz contiguous spectrum in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band

Table 6: Spectrum allocations made available in the 2022 Statement of Intent

- 5.11 The subsequent invitation to tender process for the Full Service spectrum packages led to the awarding of two licences, to JT (Jersey) Limited and Sure (Jersey) Limited.<sup>22</sup> The third Full Service spectrum package remains unallocated and there has been no take-up of the Limited Service spectrum packages. This leaves 20 MHz (2 x 10 MHz) of unallocated spectrum in the 700 MHz band<sup>23</sup> and 190 MHz in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band. A further 10 MHz of spectrum is also currently unallocated in the 700 MHz band.
- 5.12 The Authority planned to carry out a further structured assessment of interest and demand for the remaining Full Service spectrum package in 2023/24, but paused while Sure's acquisition of Airtel was under consideration.<sup>24</sup> The Limited Service spectrum packages remain available for allocation to suitable applicants.
- 5.13 The Authority is interested in views and comments on its plans for the remaining spectrum in the 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz bands.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> JCRA, 5G Spectrum Award (2022) – see here for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> JCRA, 5G Spectrum Award (2022): ITT Outcome Information Note – see <u>here</u> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> A further 10 MHz (2 x 5) of unallocated spectrum exists in the 700 MHz band.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> JCRA, Sure, Airtel – see <u>here</u> for more information.

**Question 9**: Do you have any specific interest in the currently unallocated and unlicensed local 5G Full Service or Limited Service spectrum packages, or views or comments on future regulatory approach towards them?

# Future: spectrum in the 2G/3G/4G bands being released following Sure's acquisition of Airtel

- 5.14 In August 2024, the Authority decided to approve Sure's acquisition of Airtel, subject to commitments made by the purchasing company to mitigate competition concerns.<sup>25</sup>
- 5.15 Airtel currently hold several spectrum licences providing allocations in bands between 800 MHz and 2600 MHz, historically used for 2G/3G/4G services. These allocations are shown in Table 7 below:

Spectrum band	Total spectrum <sup>26</sup>	Licensed to Airtel		
800 MHz	30 MHz x2	10 MHz x2		
900 MHz	35 MHz x2	10 MHz x2		
1800 MHz	75 MHz x2	20 MHz x2		
1900/2100 MHz	60 MHz x2	15 MHz x2		
2600 MHz	70 MHz x2	20 MHz x2		

Table 7: Airtel's current spectrum allocations / licences

- 5.16 In the UK, the WTA permits spectrum trading, which allows the transfer of licensed spectrum from one telecoms provider to another, subject to certain conditions established by Ofcom.<sup>27</sup> While parts of the WTA have been extended to the Island through the Wireless Telegraphy (Jersey) Order 2006,<sup>28</sup> they do not include Spectrum Trading provisions. This means that Airtel's spectrum allocations will become available for relicensing following a limited transition period agreed between Sure and Ofcom.
- 5.17 As a result, the spectrum blocks shown in Table 7 above will become available for reallocation. The Authority is interested in views and comments on appropriate plans for Airtel's previously licensed spectrum in the 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 1900/2100 MHz and 2600 MHz bands.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> JCRA, Decision - Proposed acquisition of Jersey Airtel Limited by Sure (Guernsey) Limited (C-042) – see <u>here</u> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> x2 denotes spectrum allocations designed to provision in two separate allocations allowing time division technologies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Ofcom, Trading Guidance Notes – see <u>here</u> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> States of Jersey, Wireless Telegraphy (Jersey) Order 2006 – see <a href="here">here</a> for more information.

**Question 10**: Do you have any specific interest in the current spectrum allocations licensed to Airtel that will become available for reallocation in the future, or views or comments on future regulatory approach towards them?

## 6 Other spectrum matters

- 6.1 In this section the Authority explains other spectrum initiatives currently under consideration or planned, along with certain or general national spectrum matters potentially of interest to the Island. Its contents include:
  - Local spectrum initiatives
  - Areas of Ofcom focus
  - Further spectrum matters of potential interest

#### Local spectrum initiatives

#### 2G/3G switch-off

- 6.2 Jersey's MNOs will deactivate their 3G and 2G mobile networks in the coming years. This is part of a wider national and international initiative aimed at releasing and reusing radio spectrum to provide more advanced 4G and 5G services for customers.
- 6.3 GoJ is collaborating with local MNOs and critical national infrastructure providers to understand and prepare for any 3G and 2G switch-off plans. The Authority intends continuing to support this effort during 2025/26 (and beyond), through working with Government, MNOs and other relevant stakeholders to help ensure the most satisfactory outcome possible for Islanders and local businesses.

#### Removing technical conditions from certain spectrum licences

- 6.4 Ofcom historically incorporated conditions into certain spectrum licences limiting their use to specific technologies and associated services such as 2G, 3G, 4G, etc. More recently issued licences are technology neutral, allowing the licensee to decide which technologies to deploy using their spectrum allocation.
- 6.5 Local spectrum licences have a mix of both types of licence technology specific and technology neutral. The Authority plans to review this in 2025/26, with a view to removing certain technical designations. This will allow licensees to reuse spectrum currently employed for 3G services, for example, to provide 5G services.

#### Review telecoms licence conditions relating to 4G

- 6.6 The licences of MNOs with existing 4G spectrum allocations contain a range of related conditions including minimum local coverage requirements, steps to mitigate against interference risks and placing an emphasis on minimising potential environmental impact.
- 6.7 The expected launch and roll-out of new 5G networks will reduce the relevance and detail of some of these historically imposed conditions. Because of this, the Authority intends to review them during 2025/26 and potentially modify or remove as appropriate.

#### **Drone licensing**

- 6.8 There are regulations in place to ensure the safe operation of drones and also manage access to the radio spectrum used to remotely control their flight. In the UK, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)<sup>29</sup> has responsibility for drone operations while Ofcom licences and manages spectrum used to operate drones and associated wireless communication devices. Through extension of the WTA, Ofcom has the same responsibilities in Jersey.
- 6.9 The emergence of high power drones capable of flying over longer distances led to Ofcom recently developing new drone licensing arrangements in the UK.<sup>30</sup> While these specifically exclude Jersey (and the other Crown Dependencies), Ofcom is willing to extend these arrangements to the Island if requested.
- 6.10 The Authority intends examining this matter further during 2025/26 with a view to extending Ofcom's high power drone licencing regime to the Island.

#### Areas of Ofcom focus

#### Spectrum for utilities

- 6.11 A wide range of communications services in the UK, including wireless networks, are used by the utilities sector to support the efficient and reliable provision of electricity, gas and water services to consumers and businesses. They enable the remote monitoring and control of infrastructure, for example, and can help identify and deal with faults.
- 6.12 Ofcom recently asked UK telecoms providers and industry for views on dedicating specific spectrum bands for use by the utilities sector.<sup>31</sup> Given Jersey's relative size and well-developed utilities sector, the Authority has no present plans to do the same, but would welcome views on the need to consider allocating local spectrum for specific purposes such as future use by utilities or similar.

#### Spectrum for general satellite services

- 6.13 There is growing interest in and demand for satellite-based communications services. Ofcom have been very active in this area as a result, creating licencing frameworks and allocating spectrum capacity, particularly in support of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellations such as SpaceX's Starlink.<sup>32</sup>
- 6.14 Through its legal responsibilities, Ofcom's frameworks and licensing activities for satellites broadly extend to the Island and will continue as such in the future. While continuing to issue individual telecoms licenses for satellite communication providers wanting to offer services in the Island, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> The Director of Civil Aviation (DCA) holds equivalent responsibility in Jersey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Ofcom, Statement: Spectrum for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) – see here for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Ofcom, Call for Input: Potential Spectrum Bands to Support Utilities Sector Transformation – see <u>here</u> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Ofcom, Space and Satellites – see <u>here</u> for more information.

Authority would welcome views on whether there should be greater focus on this area of local spectrum.

#### Regulatory framework for direct satellite to mobile handset connectivity

- 6.15 Alongside activities helping generally support the development of satellite services, there is specific focus on enabling the direct connection of mobile handsets to satellites. These may be devices specifically developed for the purpose, or are existing mobile phones adapted to accommodate satellite connectivity.
- 6.16 Ofcom recently sought views on this matter, to assess interest and demand and better understand market and industry views on allocating satellite-specific spectrum or allowing access to existing mobile spectrum.<sup>33</sup> While the Authority is monitoring developments in this emerging market, it would welcome any local views on this matter.

#### Plans to auction spectrum in the upper 1.4 GHz band

- 6.17 Ofcom works to ensure there is enough spectrum available to meet a projected growth in consumer demand for mobile broadband services. It has identified a 25 MHz block in the 1.4 GHz band that has not been released for licencing to protect against interference with satellite services using an adjacent spectrum block.
- 6.18 Through setting power limitations when using the new spectrum near certain ports and airports, Ofcom believes it can release the unused block for mobile services. There is a consultation on the best way to ensure both protection and maximise the efficient use of spectrum.<sup>34</sup>

#### Proposals to allow dual technology access in the 6 GHz band

- 6.19 Future intentions for the 6 GHz band has been receiving considerable global attention recently, as rival interests advance plans to allocate for Wi-Fi or mobile use. Both sides of the argument see this spectrum block as important for allowing mass-market, high capacity wireless broadband services, including future 5G and 6G networks.
- 6.20 Ofcom has proposed an innovative compromise approach. This would see the 6 GHz band shared between Wi-Fi and mobile usage, using technology solutions such as controlling access and power limitations. There is presently a consultation on these proposals, which acknowledges the challenges around achieving regulatory and industry consensus.<sup>35</sup>

#### Further spectrum matters of potential interest

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Ofcom, Improving Mobile Connectivity from the Sky and Space – see <a href="here">here</a> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Ofcom, Award of 1492-1517 MHz spectrum for mobile services: consultation on proposals – see <u>here</u> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Ofcom, Expanding access to the 6 GHz band for mobile and Wi-Fi services: consultation on proposals – see <u>here</u> for more information.

6.21 While highlighting the specific matters above, the Authority also notes there are a considerable range of other spectrum-related activities taking place in the UK and internationally. While there are no plans to focus on any of these, the Authority would welcome views on other spectrum matters considered relevant or important from a local perspective.

**Question 11**: Do you have any views or comments on the other spectrum matters listed in Section 6 of this Call for Information or any others that should form part of the Authority's spectrum strategy?

## 7 Next steps

#### Timetable

7.1 As noted in Section 2 above, this Call for Information is part of a process being carried out to create a spectrum strategy for Jersey. The structure and timetable for this is:

```
    Mar 2025 Open Call for Information consultation and engage stakeholders
    May 2025 Close Call for Information consultation and consider responses / information received
    Q3 2025 Issue Draft Spectrum Strategy for consultation
    Q4 2025 Issue Final Spectrum Strategy
```

7.2 Following the above steps, the Authority will address specific spectrum allocation and licensing activities arising as an outcome.

## Responding to this call for information

7.3 The Authority invites written views and comments on the issues and questions raised in this Call for Information. All responses to this proposal should be submitted in writing, clearly marked 'T-105 Spectrum Strategy', and received by the Authority before 5.00 pm on 30 May 2025. Submissions can be sent by email to <a href="mailto:info@jcra.je">info@jcra.je</a> or alternatively in writing to:

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

7.4 It would be helpful if any response includes direct answers to the questions asked in this Call for Information. It would also help if you can explain why you hold your views and how the Authority's proposals would impact on you, supported by any quantitative or qualitative evidence that you possess.

**Question 1**: Do you have any comments on the Authority's plans to develop a local spectrum strategy and proposed approach?

Question 2: Do you have any comments on the Authority's updated spectrum objectives?

**Question 3**: Do you have any comments on the Authority's approach to retaining a close alignment between spectrum decisions in the UK and Jersey?

**Question 4**: Do you have any comments on Government of Jersey policies or expectations relating to the future licensing and management of local spectrum?

**Question 5**: Do you have any views or comments on future demand for local spectrum and steps that should be taken to ensure these are met?

**Question 6**: Do you have any views or comments on the optimum local approach to opening-up the 3.8-4.2 GHz band in Jersey?

**Question 7**: Do you have any views or comments on the local approach to designating the mmWave band in Jersey and on the appropriate timing for an allocation and licensing process?

**Question 8**: Do you have any specific interest in the historically unallocated and unlicensed local spectrum allocations in 2G/3G/4G bands between 800 MHz and 2600 MHz, or views or comments on the ideal future regulatory approach towards them?

**Question 9**: Do you have any specific interest in the currently unallocated and unlicensed local 5G Full Service or Limited Service spectrum packages, or views or comments on future regulatory approach towards them?

**Question 10**: Do you have any specific interest in the current spectrum allocations licensed to Airtel that will become available for reallocation in the future, or views or comments on future regulatory approach towards them?

**Question 11**: Do you have any views or comments on the other spectrum matters listed in Section 6 of this Call for Information or any others that should form part of the Authority's spectrum strategy?

7.5 Under Authority policy, non-confidential responses to the Call for Information consultation may be made available on its website (www.jcra.je). Any material that is confidential should be put in a separate annex and clearly marked as such.

## Direct stakeholder engagement

7.6 Alongside this Call for Information, the Authority intends directly engaging with key stakeholders during Q1 2025 with a focus on Guiding factor 4: future demand for wireless services as explained in Section 3 Anybody with an interest in this subject are welcome to contact the JCRA by email to <a href="mailto:info@jcra.je">info@jcra.je</a> or alternatively in writing to:

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

# Annex A: present local spectrum allocations

Spectrum band <sup>36</sup>	Total spectrum <sup>37</sup>	Licenced to Airtel	Licenced to Clear Mobitel	Licensed to JT	Licensed to Newtel	Licensed to Sure	Remaining unlicensed
700 MHz <sup>38</sup>	2 x 30 MHz 20 MHz			2 X 10 MHz		2 x 10 MHz	2 x 10 MHz 20 MHz
800 MHz	2 x 30 MHz	2 x 10 MHz		2 x 10 MHz		2 x 10 MHz	
900 MHz	2 x 35 MHz	2 x 10 MHz		2 x 5 MHz 2 x 10 MHz		2 x 10 MHz	
1400 MHz <sup>39</sup>	40 MHz						40 MHz
1800 MHz	2 x 75 MHz	2 x 20 MHz		2 x 20 MHz		2 x 20 MHz	2 x 15 MHz
DECT	20 MHz x 2						
1900 MHz <sup>40</sup>	20 MHz			5 MHz		5 MHz	10 MHz
1900/2100 MHz	2 x 60 MHz	2 x 14.8 MHz	2 x 10 MHz	2 x 14.8 MHz		2 x 14.8 MHz	2 x 5 MHz

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Ofcom, Frequency Allocations Channel Islands (2024) – see <u>here</u> for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> x2 denotes spectrum allocations designed to provision in two separate allocations allowing time division technologies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> 5G designated band.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Licensed in the UK as supplementary download – used to increase downlink capacity and enhance mobile broadband experience.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Currently licensed in the UK to EE, Vodafone and Three, but unused and being cleared by Ofcom for higher value uses such as the utilities and rail sectors.

Spectrum band <sup>36</sup>	Total spectrum <sup>37</sup>	Licenced to Airtel	Licenced to Clear Mobitel	Licensed to JT	Licensed to Newtel	Licensed to Sure	Remaining unlicensed
2300 MHz <sup>41</sup>	40 MHz						40 MHz
2600 MHz (TDD)	50 MHz						50 MHz
2600 MHz (FDD)	2 x 70 MHz	2 x 20 MHz		2 x 20 MHz		2 x 20 MHz	2 x 10 MHz
3400-3800 MHz <sup>42</sup>	390 MHz			40 MHz <sup>43</sup>	2 x 20 MHz <sup>44</sup>	40 MHz <sup>45</sup>	190 MHz

Licensed in the UK for 4G usage.
 5G designated band.
 Rising to 100 MHz.
 Licence revoked in 2024, with a three-year notice period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Rising to 100 MHz.