

dti

the department for Enterprise

CCFO

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Date 21 July 1988

John Gleave, top 2 encl.

We exchanged correspondence in May regarding the handling of the Stage 1 report of the Independent Review of Defence Radio Frequency Spectrum submitted by the Chairman, Sir Kenneth Corfield.

We agreed that the initial announcement of the receipt of the report, and our intention to publish an abridged version, should be made by one of my Ministerial colleagues in DTI. I am proposing to announce the Government Response in the same manner, timed to coincide with the publication of the abridged report. I would be grateful if you could let me know if you are content with this course of action. A copy of the text of the Response is attached.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Nigel Lawson, Douglas Hurd and to Sir Robin Butler.

*Y-u
Law*

OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF DEFENCE RADIO
FREQUENCY SPECTRUM (470 MHz to 3400 MHz)

1. A published version of the Report of the Defence Spectrum Review Committee has been made available and copies have been placed in the Library.
2. The Government accepts, and will act in accordance with all the recommendations of the Committee.
3. The Government is glad to see the Committee's recognition that the overall balance of military and civil apportionment of the part of the spectrum under review is about right and that the management of the apportionments should continue without change.
4. The Committee's recommendations concerning increased civil sharing of several frequency bands managed by the Ministry of Defence will necessitate further work to determine the precise geographical and frequency constraints and the appropriate management techniques. Also, measures must be devised to ensure that, when necessary, the Ministry of Defence can quickly gain exclusive access to previously shared frequencies.
5. The Committee's other recommendations concerning greater openness about defence use of the spectrum and the use of automatic data processing are already being acted upon.
6. Finally, the Government expresses its appreciation for the work of Sir Kenneth Corfield and his colleagues and the positive nature of their report.

BROADCASTING: Frequency

Spectrum

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