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cc: Paul Gill - JFMG  
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8<sup>th</sup> March 2002

Dear Jane and Catherine

Re: Digital Television Spectrum Planning

This response to the consultation document supports the JFMG's submission regarding our PMSE business activities. Part of Carlton Broadcasting's ITC licence requirements within the Central Region is the production of its Regional News output. This is based at three sub-regional studio centres, each employing seven ENG crews. Use of UHF radio microphones is widespread, both in studio and on location. In addition, the band is used for radio talkback and in-ear monitoring for presenters. We also employ staff and freelance crews to work on Regional and Network programme production.

We are about to replace some age-ing VHF kit. There is no alternative at present, other than to purchase further UHF units. This would take our total PMSE requirement to:

- 6 Radio microphone channels on dedicated frequencies.
- 14 Radio microphone channels on shared frequencies.
- 16 Duplex radio talkback units
- 2 In-ear monitoring channels

This gives an overall requirement of fifty four channels. We also employ freelance staff who supply their own radio microphone equipment. The operational requirements for radio microphones are increasing. A conservative estimate would raise our requirements to sixty plus channels by 2006. This would require between eight and nine 8MHz vision channels.

Our PMSE kit represents a large capital investment. System replacement cost would be significant if this frequency allocation were to disappear. The (suggested) use of the 1.8GHz is as yet untried. Prolonged exposure to these frequencies would surely carry health and safety implications.

Loss of use of radio microphones and radio talkback would cripple the operation.

Yours truly

Dave Peregrine  
Head of Technical Resources, Carlton Broadcasting (Central Region)

