



L O N D O N N E W S N E T W O R K

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Catherine Smadja
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Dear Jane and Catherine

Re: Digital Television: The Principles For Spectrum Planning

This response to the consultation document supports the JFMG's submission regarding London News Network's (LNN) PMSE business activities.

LNN is owned jointly by Carlton Television Limited and Granada Media Group and was formed to provide news production and programme transmission for both companies within the ITV London region. In addition LNN also produces a number of factually based programmes for the London region using similar equipment to that used in the production of the news programming.

News Production is based in central London and utilises upwards of fourteen ENG crews, three microwave Links vehicles and a studio operation at the London Television Centre on the South Bank.

The use of UHF radio microphones is widespread, both in the studio and on location; we currently operate equipment in channels 60, 62 and 69.

LNN's ENG crews are made up of a camera operator and a reporter. Without the use of wireless microphone technology the production of news on location would become very much more difficult as it would mean that the reporter is literally tied, via a microphone cable, to the camera.

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This may necessitate a completely different approach to the acquisition of news material as the reporter would now have to be within a much smaller radius of the camera position potentially restricting their ability to reach the subject of the news item with a microphone. The separation of the reporter from the camera operator by a significant distance is quite common, an example being the "media scrum" which sometimes develops at high profile news events where the reporter pushes their way through to the subject leaving the camera towards the rear.

In addition, the band is used for radio talkback and in-ear monitoring for presenters and guests, both in the studio and on location, LNN currently operate equipment with channels 40 and 50 for these purposes.

LNN has a current requirement of over fifty UHF channels with the operational requirements for radio microphones and in-ear communications ever increasing.

The PMSE wireless equipment represents a large capital investment and system replacement costs would be significant if this frequency allocation were to be relocated in another band.

Total loss of the use of radio microphones and radio talkback would severely hamper LNN's ability to bring high quality local news and features to the capital's TV audience.

LNN, therefore, strongly urge the respective Government Agencies to more fully analyse the impact on the programme making process as well as that on the transmission of the finished article.

Yours sincerely

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