

Response to Notice of Proposal to issue a Class Licence for Mobile Communications on Aircraft (issued 20 May 2019)¹ (R1)

The Communications Commission (the Commission) issued a Notice that it was minded to issue a class licence in respect of Mobile Communications on Aircraft. Comments were invited on the proposal and the draft licence.

Only one detailed response was received which was from SES S.A (see below). SES were supportive of the proposal and the issuance of a class licence. SES also requested that the Commission made an exception to the rule that operations are restricted to above 3000 metres for Wi-Fi that doesn't use licensed cellular services. Given the low risk of interference from such services, the Commission does not intend to restrict the use of Wi-Fi services under the class licence, where such services comply with the relevant harmonised standards in force.

The class licence issued under s.5 of the Telecommunications Act 1984 (of Tynwald) is now in force and is available on the Licensing page of this website.

24 July 2019

The Communications Commission

¹ <https://www.iomcc.im/media/1319/notification-proposal-and-draft-class-licence-mobile-communications-on-aircraft-may-2019.pdf>

SES Comments to Commission MCA Proposal 3 June 2019



Senior Vice President, Global Legal & Regulatory Affairs

Ms. Sue Strang
Chief Operating Officer
Isle of Man Communications Commission
Murray House
Mount Havelock
Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 2SF
United Kingdom

3 June 2019

Subject: Consultation Concerning Issuance of a Class Licence for Mobile Communications on Aircraft

Dear Ms. Strang,

SES S.A. (hereafter referred to as "SES"), on behalf of its various United Kingdom interests including wholly-owned subsidiaries SES ASTRA UK, Ltd, SES Satellites (Gibraltar) Ltd, SES Satellite Leasing Ltd in the Isle of Man, and O3b Limited, hereby submits its comments to the Communications Commission's proposal (the "Proposal") concerning issuance of a Class Licence which would permit operators to offer mobile communications on aircraft.

SES is a leading provider of fixed satellite services in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa, with a fleet of over 50 satellites in geostationary Earth orbit and 20 satellites in medium Earth orbit ("MEO"). Several SES satellites – including the O3b MEO constellation – are operated under U.K. ITU satellite filings, many are launched pursuant to U.K. launch authority, many have U.K.-manufactured satellite components, and many are insured by U.K. entities. SES is a provider of a wide variety of important satellite services to customers in the U.K. including for direct-to-home services, satellite news gathering, private networks, broadband services, aero and maritime services, and more. For more than a decade, SES has been an important provider of satellite capacity in the U.K. market. In particular, approximately sixteen (16) million U.K. households receive television services via SES spacecraft either directly through direct-to-home services or via feeds to cable head ends.

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We further note the restriction to operations above 3,000 metres to protect terrestrial services. We would request that the Communications Commission make an exception to this rule for WiFi that does not use licensed cellular frequencies.

Yours Sincerely,



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