

## ***DEALING WITH YOUR VDSL QRM (cont. from Blog, 7 Nov 2020)***

For your letter to your local MP, an example supplied by Gary, M0PLT is copied here as a guide or template.

Please do not just copy the letter but use it as a source of inspiration.

You can find your local MP at:

<https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons>) Use <http://WriteToThem.com>

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on a matter of national importance, and one which I hope you can be more effective than your predecessor. The Radio Amateurs of the United Kingdom have been forced to suffer with an ever increasing level of man-made harmful radio frequency pollution thanks to a complete lack of action from the national regulator, Ofcom. Since their inception by NuLabour in 2003, Ofcom have continued to prove they are not fit-for-purpose by continually failing in their statutory duties to protect the radio spectrum for all users. Amateur Radio was born here in the UK when the British establishment gave a warm welcome to Guglielmo Marconi to carry out his experiments in the new theory of radio. A fact, along with many other great British achievements and inventions, that are sadly missing from the school curriculum and the national consciousness! Following the sinking of RMS Titanic, we hosted the international forum on radio and assisted the world in deciding recognisable call-signs. That forum would become the International Telecommunications Union.

During lock-down, Radio Amateurs of all ages have used radio as a primary means of communications. Radio has been a life-line for many elderly people as social-media is either something they are not comfortable using, or they are simply not aware of. Without radio, many would have suffered from serious mental health issues as they found themselves completely isolated. It is therefore incumbent on our national regulator to do everything in its powers to protect this valuable resource from unnecessary and harmful man-made radio-frequency pollution. Unlike water or air pollution, radio pollution is very easy to cure: simply remove the offending device(s) and ensure they cannot be used again.

The specific issue we need your assistance with revolves around the Openreach implementation of VDSL2. Through the use of software produced by the very clever people of the Radio Society of Great Britain's EMC committee, we have identified severe and harmful radio-frequency interference emanating from the over-head drop-wires running along Holme Court Avenue in Biggleswade (other interference sources are also available and present). We have presented this prima facie evidence to

Ofcom, who in response, have required us to complete a 7-day log over a 10-day period listing all of the Amateur Radio stations we cannot hear; i.e. their signals are obscured by the harmful interference. I am sure you will agree that this is a complete nonsense, and akin to asking someone to listen for bird song next to a busy motorway. I was unable to complete the log as I do not spend every day operating something that is a technical hobby. I was also unable to complete the log as I find it painful to spend long periods of time listening to the considerable noise present on many of the lower High Frequency amateur radio bands. Due to the high-level of man-made interference, I have been forced to abandon any use of them. Ofcom have now closed my case and refuse to carry out any investigation of their own as they believe I have been unable to demonstrate harmful interference. They have backed-up their lack of action by quoting several sections of the Wireless Telegraphy Act.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in raising this injustice with the government. It is unacceptable to close a case and refuse to investigate without taking any field measurements. Amateur Radio cannot continue to play 2nd fiddle to those who pay for access to the radio spectrum. The Radio Amateur community of the UK have long felt that the government should re-light the bonfire of the Quangos and break-up Ofcom's functions. We would like to see a return of the Radio Communications Agency, with a mandate to protect the radio spectrum, enforce EMC regulations, and take a more active approach to removing offending junk electronics, regardless of whether they are CE marked. Now we are outside of Europe, it is in our interest to enforce stricter rules to ensure manufacturers do not ignore the laws in order to make a quick profit. Failure to clean-up the radio spectrum and protect it could spell the end of any and all Amateur Radio activities in the UK. If Amateur Radio is allowed to die-out, there will be a greater loss than just VAT on expensive equipment. The UK will lose a natural-resource of highly-skilled technical individuals; there will be no-one left to teach STEM in schools; no-one available to talk to British Astronauts; and the UK will find itself left only with consumers who have no ability or skills other than purchasing something in the shops!

You may wish to reach-out to the Bedford HQ of the Radio Society of Great Britain for further information on the man-made radio-frequency pollution driving Radio Amateurs off air.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Gary Myers CITP MBCS  
Licensed Radio Amateur: M0PLT

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Gary received a reply from his MP but we are not permitted to copy it here. However, the tone was that of some agreement and understanding. He was aware of the work being done by the RSGB and said he agreed that it is important for the law on preventing electromagnetic disturbance to be properly enforced.

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Of course, your report to Ofcom etc. may not be this long, but all reports count!