

Your response

Question	Your response
Do you have any comments on our proposals?	Facebook’s mission is to give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together. And connecting people is the first step in executing this mission. To this end, Facebook particularly supports Ofcom’s proposal to improve mobile coverage, particularly in rural areas, as well as to improve opportunities for innovation, through spectrum sharing. Connectivity is quickly becoming an essential requirement to conduct business, benefit from healthcare and education, and even get access to government services, on top of providing information and entertainment. Connectivity is especially critical for rural communities. Facebook, therefore, supports Ofcom’s efforts to help reduce the digital divide. Given the current growth of connectivity demand, we believe that enabling and promoting the sharing of spectrum resources will be critical to meeting spectrum demand today and in the long-term. We applaud Ofcom’s inclusion of “improving opportunities for spectrum sharing” as part of its Plan of work for 2020/21 (Consultation at 7). As Facebook noted in its March 12, 2018 submission before Ofcom in response to its consultation on “Shared access to spectrum supporting mobile technology,” we support Ofcom’s ongoing efforts to make spectrum available on a shared basis with the aim of comprehensive mobile coverage across the UK as well as the creation of opportunities for innovation. In particular, Facebook supports Ofcom’s decision to move forward to make unused spectrum available immediately through a simple coordination framework. We agree with Ofcom that it should explore how to “further support innovation through a

	fully automated authorisation approach.” (Consultation at 7). Facebook alongside other companies across the industry is working to evaluate and develop the automated frequency coordination mechanism that the Federal Communications Commission has proposed to use for higher power outdoor use cases in its 6 GHz band proposed rulemaking. Facebook believes that a tiered spectrum sharing model (“TSSM”) can be a very effective mechanism for enabling important new use cases and increasing spectrum utilization. An industry-led automated authorisation approach will be critical to the long-term success of dynamic spectrum sharing. As Ofcom plans to consider this topic more thoroughly in the coming year, it should aim to establish the parameters for automated authorisation technologies, but ultimately allow industry to develop and operate them. Furthermore, as Ofcom considers rules for automated authorisation technologies, it should be flexible and allow for multiple coordination systems to operate to accommodate different use cases in the shared bands.
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