Generic Organisations – Application to be added to the Airwave Sharers List

The sharers’ list was set up to describe specific individual user groups who are eligible to join the Airwave service. The sharers list provides for amendments, including additions and deletions, to be made to the list of sharers.  This means that there should be no confusion about whether or not a particular user group is on the list (and therefore able to use the Airwave service).  In order to assist respondents in considering whether a particular user is eligible to join the list, the following criteria must be met.

The organisation must:-

1.      Respond to emergencies;

2.      Be involved in emergency situations reasonably frequently:

3.      Be civilian, or required to respond to civilian emergencies: and

4.      Require interaction with those who respond to emergencies (the purpose of being on the Airwave service is interaction by way of instant direct communication with the emergency services on the ground).

**Once completed, please submit your application form by email to** **Emergency.Services@ofcom.org.uk****.**

Generic Organisations’ seeking to access the Airwave system must provide Ofcom with the following information:

1. The organisation to which the proposed user group belongs.

2. The name of the proposed user group and full contact details (name of responsible person, address, phone number, email address).

3. A description of the general function and daily work of the proposed user group in relation to communications with emergency services. How many mobile terminals will be required by the proposed user group?

4. Documentary evidence to prove the above and confirm the nature of work of the

organisation.

5. A brief statement, including reasons, identifying the Generic Organisation the proposed user group considers it belongs to.

6. In order to validate your organisation’s or user group’s requirement, you are required to have your application supported by an emergency service or sponsor Government Department. The aim of the support is to validate the applicant’s requirement for instant and direct communications, to facilitate interoperability with the emergency services in emergency and public safety situations.

Support at Senior Officer level provides the suitable clarity of the operational purpose and working relationship with the applicant from within a particular emergency service e.g. Police Force/Fire Brigade. Support must be provided at Police Force/Brigade/Trust wide level and submitted by an officer who has authority to act on behalf (e.g. Chief Constable, Chief Fire Officer) of one of the following:

* National Police Force
* British Transport Police
* Ministry of Defence Police
* Ambulance Trust
* Fire and Rescue Service

In view of this, and in order to shorten the time taken to complete the assessment of your application, section 7 of the application form(s) must be completed in full by the relevant emergency service ideally before the application form is submitted to Ofcom. However, Ofcom is content to accept applications without the emergency service section completed, in order for applicants to comply with the two month application window deadline (1 September – 31 October annually) providing that a copy of the application form with emergency service support section fully completed is received by Ofcom no later than one month after the closure of the application window i.e. 30 November.

Name:…………………………………… Date:………………………………….

7. To be completed by the Emergency Service

This application to join the Airwave Sharers list is fully supported by:

Name:

Force/Brigade/Trust:

Position/Rank:

Date:

Comments box (optional)

Before your organisation and / or user group can handle or use any Airwave radio terminals, you need to be in possession of a valid TEA2 user sub-licence. (TEA2 stands for TETRA Encryption Algorithm 2 and forms part of the security mechanism within the radio terminals. Its use is strictly controlled, through licensing, under the terms of an international arrangement.) The licensing authority within the UK is the Airwave Accreditation Secretariat. TEA2 licensing information can be obtained by email at: airwave.accreditation@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Applicants should note that inclusion on the sharers list does not mean that an organisation has an automatic right to use the Airwave network.  The effect of inclusion only means that Airwave may make the network service available to such sharer organisations.  It is then up to the parties to agree the contract terms.

**Please note: application forms of successful applicants will be shared with Airwave and Home Office. This is to assist the process of facilitating network access and determination of talk groups.**

**How we use your data**

We require this information in order to carry out our licensing duties under the Wireless Telegraphy Act.

Please see Ofcom’s General Privacy Statement for further information about how Ofcom handles your personal information and your corresponding right:

[www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/foi-dp/general-privacy-statement](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/foi-dp/general-privacy-statement)