



# Stay Heard

The 700 MHz band  
is being cleared in the UK.

Will you be affected?

A photograph of a person with curly hair, seen from the side, holding a microphone. They are on a stage, and the background is a blurred audience of people, some of whom are holding up phones to take pictures. The lighting is dim, with some blue and white highlights from the audience's phones.

**SENNHEISER**

# We live in a wireless world

Modern productions – from festival fields, live arenas, theatres and sports venues, to more permanent installations inside auditoriums, schools, and churches – rely on wireless microphones. Demand for wireless microphones is skyrocketing; in the UK alone, around 29.1 million people enjoyed live music events in 2017<sup>1</sup>.

Alongside this, mobile phone usage is also growing. By 2020, there will be almost 7 billion mobile devices in the world<sup>2</sup>. We're streaming more music, video and rich content on our devices, and we're doing it more often.

So here's the catch: wireless microphones and mobile devices both use radio frequencies to operate, and mobile network operators are buying up more of the spectrum to make sure they can deliver their services, leaving less for wireless microphone and IEM equipment.

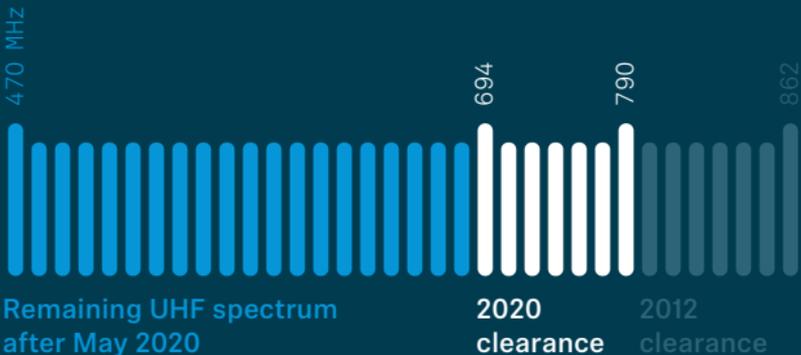
<sup>1</sup> UK Live Music Attendance and Music Tourism, 2017

<sup>2</sup> IDC, 2018

# So what's happening to the 700 MHz band?

We've lost almost 40% of the available UHF spectrum since 2012, and we're set to lose more.

The UK Government has announced that they intend to clear the 700 MHz band by 1st May 2020, which is bad news for wireless microphone and IEM users. Audio engineers will need to work harder and smarter to meet production demands, and some equipment will become non-compliant, or more difficult to configure and operate.



## But there's good news: the Digital Dividend

The UK Government has put in place a generous compensation scheme for anyone who owns Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) equipment that relies on the 700 MHz band\*. It's called the Digital Dividend, and you (or your customers) could be eligible.

**The Digital Dividend means you can offset the cost of new equipment by claiming at least 60% back against newer equipment, plus an additional 10% in administration charges against the total claim value\*\*, so you get the latest technology that's fit for the future, with a significant saving.**

\*Product must have been purchased by 23rd August 2018.

\*\*Deadline for application: 26th April 2019



## Am I eligible for compensation?

You're eligible for compensation if you:

- ▶ Have held a licence in the 700 MHz band between 17th October 2014 and 23rd August 2018 OR, you can prove your rental business is dry hire only and doesn't need a licence
- ▶ Are claiming for equipment that belongs to you
- ▶ Are claiming for equipment that is still in working order
- ▶ Bought your equipment before 23rd August 2018
- ▶ Are claiming for equipment with at least some of its range in the 700 MHz band (694-790 MHz)

You can also claim for some ancillary equipment if it will be unusable after the 700 MHz band clearance. Ancillary equipment must satisfy all eligibility criteria, with the exception of tuning range for equipment without a tuning function.

### What if my equipment doesn't operate in the 700 MHz frequency?

When the 700 MHz frequency band is cleared, more people will switch over to the remaining spectrum, so things look set to get a little crowded. And some equipment will tune across usable and non-usable frequencies, so its tuning range will become constrained. The good news is, if your equipment falls into that category, you could be entitled to compensation too.

## When do I need to act?

The Ofcom compensation portal is now live, and you must submit your claim by 26th April 2019.

**Visit [pmsefunding.co.uk](https://www.pmsefunding.co.uk)**

## Is there a simple way to find out whether I'm affected?

Take a look at our simple Radio Frequency Health Check tool to see if you're affected by the 700 MHz band clearance. It's quick and easy, and will guide you through the entire process, from selecting new products, to applying for compensation.

Take the test now:

**[sennheiser.com/stayheard](https://www.sennheiser.com/stayheard)**