



The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network

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Registered Charity No. 1047725

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31 March, 2008

To: All RSGB Board Members (via e-mail), and
Recorded delivery letter to RSGB Company Secretary, c/o Registered Office.

Dear Sirs,

I would like to thank Robin Bellerby for sending me the draft newsletter about the Public Services Portfolio, which I received by e-mail on Sunday 30 March 2008, a copy of which is attached to this letter as Appendix 3.

I hope that this letter arrives with RSGB Board Members in time to prevent distribution of the newsletter in its current form. To publish it would, in our view, be brave and risks significant reputational harm to the Society.

This letter is being sent to all RSGB Board Members, for although the draft newsletter appears to express the personal views of one individual Board Member, it also appears that that the individual concerned is acting with the agreement of the RSGB Board. (This is alluded to in the newsletter's 'Stop Press'). Consequently we feel that all Board Members should be made aware of our substantial concerns.

We fully respect the right of the RSGB Board to write to its members and affiliated societies (including RSGB RAYNET Groups), and support the Society's proposed encouragement of Demonstration Stations, as described in Activity 1, paragraph 2 of the newsletter.

However, in our view the draft appears to present a radical change to existing RSGB policy, and seems to be a significantly retrograde step by returning to the arrangements in place prior to the de-merger in 1993. We do not wish to return to those difficult times, and we are pleased that the RSGB publicly states in the draft newsletter that it 'looks to (the) eventual unity of RAYNET'.

For the reasons set out in Appendix 1, we believe that publication of the newsletter would be likely to cause RSGB significant reputational harm. This is something that we would not wish to happen, and such harm would not be in the interests of either company.

We wholeheartedly agree with the document's statement that RAYNET is the public face of amateur radio. Despite our previous discussions with several RSGB Presidents, the General Manager and latterly with Mr. Bellerby, this document unfortunately demonstrates a worrying corporate mis-understanding about the Network, its work and its significant achievements.

We would therefore like to have the opportunity to make a presentation followed by a discussion with the full RSGB Board at the earliest mutually convenient opportunity. We would wish to

inform the Board about the practical realities of RAYNET in the UK, and in particular about the work of the Network. We would also like to focus on how the Network can help the RSGB achieve its aim of having a unified RAYNET.

If our offer is accepted, this would be the first time in over 15 years that we have had the opportunity to address the RSGB Board. We trust you will be able to see the potential benefits that might stem from this given the importance RSGB publicly attaches to RAYNET and the predominant position of the Network.

In the interim we urge the Board of RSGB to confine the proposed newsletter to just Activity 1 (Demonstration Stations), and not to publish any document relating to Community Events, RAYNET or The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network until we have had the opportunity to make our presentation to you.

We also feel that it is less than helpful for the RSGB to propose the formation of a Public Services Committee with the remit set out in the newsletter, particularly in light of the matters set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between our two organisations dated 18 April 2004.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CmClark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cathy Clark, G1GQJ
Chairman

For and on behalf of the Directors and Trustees of
The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network

Appendix 1 – The specific concerns of The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network to the draft newsletter.

Appendix 2 – Copy of the Memorandum of Understand between RSGB and The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network dated 18 April 2004.

Appendix 3 – Copy of draft Newsletter as received.