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Subject	IARU Region 1 QSL Policy Revisions		
Society	RSGB	Country:	United Kingdom
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IARU Region 1 QSL Policy Revisions

Introduction

This paper proposes a series of recommendations to alleviate the burden on QSL bureaux and encourage responsible QSLing

Background

The national QSL Bureau service is rightly seen as one of the important benefits that members gain from being a member of their national IARU society. It is vital therefore that all IARU societies strive to run the most efficient QSL service they can. However all QSL bureaux worldwide face rising demand, rising costs and limited volunteer resources.

Analysis of the performance of the RSGB bureau has shown that:-

- some 50% of all QSL cards are unwanted and are discarded at some stage
- postal charges are increasing all the time
- the availability of volunteers to undertake sorting and distribution of QSLs is becoming more limited.

At the same time the development of ways to handle part of the process by using email and internet has opened up the potential for significant improvements to the bureau system. In effect this is 'QSL on demand', with benefits for the user in terms of both cost and speed of response, as well as resource savings for the QSL bureau.

Proposal

It is therefore proposed that IARU-R1 adopt a new set of recommendations which are grouped together here under the overall title of 'Responsible QSLing'. (Reference: RadCom November 2013 pg 31-33). The RSGB will shortly devote a page on its website to publicise Responsible QSLing.

Recommendations for Responsible QSLing

Improving QSL systems

- do make sure your QSL policy is up to date on webpages and especially qrz.com;

- DX and Contest expeditions, special event calls etc. should offer OQRS, (On Line QSL Request System) – an included facility in Club Log;
- do accept requests, also by e-mail, for bureau cards;
- do upload logs to LoTW regularly;
- IARU Member Societies reference Responsible QSLing on their websites.

Cutting QSL waste

- do ask contacts if they want a paper QSL card and only send to those that request one either by email, OQRS or after you have received their card;
- do not be afraid to tell contacts if you do not want a paper QSL;
- do ask your QSL manager to recycle your cards if you don't want them;
- do not QSL all contacts 100% ever.

Improving proof of contact for Awards

To review existing electronic alternatives to paper QSLs along with possible new developments that could provide sufficiently robust proof of contact for use by Member Society's Awards.