



# Office of Utility Regulation

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## Regulator Publishes Mast Audit Report

An audit commissioned by Guernsey’s Office of Utility Regulation (OUR) has found that each of the 48 (forty-eight) radio masts checked in Guernsey, Alderney and Sark falls well within the highest international safety standards for emissions. The audit was conducted to make sure masts in the Bailiwick complied with the stringent International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) standards that are used in most European countries, including the U.K. The results are published today by the OUR.

“This is the first audit of emissions from the Bailiwick’s radio masts, and it is reassuring to note that not only have all sites complied with the most stringent international standards, the high degree to which they have all complied is also very important” said John Curran, Director General of the OUR. “All operators have demonstrated that they have in place processes and procedures that ensure that their networks are operated in a professional manner.”

The report also details the recommendations made by the auditors, CDS, to further improve upon the systems currently in place, which the OUR will be requiring all operators to implement. These mainly involve making sure that access to all masts is suitably restricted and that signage is clear and prominent. It is also felt to be necessary for the antennas at the Airport, while already well within international safety standards for emissions, to be reduced in power. This is in-line with internal procedures applied by certain airport authorities in the UK and the OUR believes it appropriate to meet best practice in this regard.

The OUR has also announced that it will be working with OFCOM, the UK communications regulator, to carry out random site checks later this year. This ongoing process will make sure that new masts in the Bailiwick also comply with the international safety standards.

“Obviously, new mast sites will be deployed over time and it is important for the public’s continued confidence that further checks are made” said John Curran. “OFCOM will undertake a small number of random checks on sites in the Bailiwick as part of its on-going audit of masts in the UK. The OUR will publish details of the results of OFCOM’s audit once it has been completed.”

The full details of the audit on each of the forty-eight masts in the Bailiwick are available, and Islanders can get a copy of them simply by contacting the OUR.

–ENDS–

## **Information for Editors**

- The Information Notice, **OUR 05/05: Audit of Radio Masts in the Bailiwick of Guernsey**, is available on the OUR website [www.regutil.gg](http://www.regutil.gg), or by calling the OUR on 711120.
- **ICNIRP Standard**

All OUR licensees must comply with the stringent International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) standards that are also used in most European countries including the UK. ICNIRP is a non-governmental organisation, formally recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which evaluates scientific results from all over the world and produces guidelines recommending limits of exposure.

- **About the OUR**

The Office of Utility Regulation was established in 2001 to regulate the three utilities of post, telecommunications and electricity in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. The Office is headed up by Director General, John Curran and has three staff.

The role of the OUR is to protect the interests of Guernsey consumers and the economy. It does this by ensuring that customers receive the best in price, choice and quality services in the three regulated sectors, while at the same time ensuring that those sectors are vibrant and robust so that they can positively contribute to and underpin a successful Guernsey economy.

The OUR licenses and regulates telecommunications operators, Guernsey Electricity Ltd and Guernsey Post Ltd. Wherever possible, the OUR promotes the introduction of competition by ensuring that there is fair play and a level playing field between the operators. Where competition is not yet effective or where it is not feasible, the OUR regulates prices and quality of services to customers.

- **More information is available from the OUR website [www.regutil.gg](http://www.regutil.gg), or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120.**