

# Office of Utility Regulation

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## **Mobile Mast Register Updated**

The utilities regulator has today published an updated register showing the location, number and type of mobile base stations used by the three mobile operators in Guernsey. The OUR's report shows that there are seventy sites in total, an increase of eight from last October when the mast register was first published. Thirty two sites are now shared, compared with sixteen in October 2007.

"These figures highlight that the requirement to share sites where possible is working well. Nearly half of all sites are now shared which is well ahead of that in the UK or Jersey," said Director General John Curran. "70% of the sites used by the mobile operators are on buildings (either roof or wall mounted) or larger mast towers that existed before mobile competition began in 2003. Operators are clearly responding to the need to keep new build to the minimum levels possible."

This register provides Islanders with information about where each mast site is located, the number of operators on each site and the nature of the site. Information on the location and type of masts used was provided by the mobile operators.

"It is important that the mobile operators continue to work together to ensure that their commitments to co-operate with the Environment Department and each other translates into actions that minimise the impact of their networks on the environment, said John Curran. "The approach adopted by the Environment Department with the mobile operators, along with the regulatory obligations the operators have, is having the desired effect of minimising the number of new green field sites."

The information contained in the OUR's report includes data on sites currently operated by the three licensed mobile phone operators – C&W Guernsey, Wave Telecom and Airtel Vodafone – and sites for which planning consent has been granted by the Environment Department. The information in the register reflects the position as of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

The OUR will also shortly be publishing its report on its audit of the level of emissions from every mast site that was operational in April 2008. The report is currently being compiled and full details on every site will be published on the OUR's website.

"We recognise there remain concerns around the issue of emissions from mobile base stations. Providing full information on whether operators are meeting their obligations is an important step in helping to address some of those concerns," said John Curran. "All previous emissions audits have shown that emission levels are well within international safety guidelines. However we want to continue to provide as much reassurance to the public as we can which is why we have undertaken an audit of every site. We will be making the full reports for every site publicly available later this month and highlighting how the public can get access to that information."

The Register of Mobile Antenna Sites is published on the OUR website – <a href="www.regutil.gg">www.regutil.gg</a> – and is available from the OUR's office by calling tel. 711120.

**ENDS** 

#### **Information for the Editor**

### **Number of Sites by Island**

Island	Number of Sites
Guernsey	59
Alderney	5
Sark	5
Herm	1

### **Types of Mast Structure**

Type of Mounting	Number
Roof-Top	24
Monopole	24
Lattice Tower	12
Outdoor Wall Mounted	8
Indoor Wall Mounted	6
Water Tower	2

#### **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 end customers. More information is available from the OUR website www.regutil.gg, or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120.