



30 May, 2017

CICRA commissions Channel Islands mobile mast emissions audit

CICRA (The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities) has commissioned an independent audit of mobile phone masts across the Channel Islands to ensure they meet internationally-recognised guidelines and emissions are within safe limits.

CICRA is the independent organisation responsible for promoting competition and consumer interests. Its role is to inform and protect consumers, and other stakeholder groups, ensuring Channel Islanders receive value, choice and access to high quality services.

As part of its role as regulator of the telecoms sector, CICRA has worked with local operators to ensure consumers have a choice of mobile operators offering 4G services.

The delivery of these services meant significant changes to the mobile mast networks across the Channel Islands. CICRA's mast audit, conducted by independent contractor, iWireless, will ensure Channel Islanders have up-to-date information about the masts, where they are and they can be confident that emission levels are monitored.

Each mast is assessed against the guidelines set down by the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

iWireless has started its audit and Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm will all be visited. There are 91 transmitter sites in Guernsey, 202 in Jersey, one in Herm, five in Sark and six in Alderney.

CICRA director, Louise Read said: “Mobile phones are a vital part of most people’s lives. The range of services on offer to islanders is growing and will only continue to grow with the further development of high speed mobile data.

“These services rely on the network of mobile masts which emit electromagnetic radiation. JT, Sure and Airtel are required to ensure the masts they install comply with the ICNIRP guidelines.

“Local consumers can be reassured that CICRA is monitoring this on their behalf.”

The last full audit of mobile phone masts took place in 2013. All masts complied with the ICNIRP guidelines with the highest emission reading only one-seventh of the agreed internationally-set safe limit.

A full copy of the results of the audit will be published on CICRA’s website in September (www.cicra.gg) including a downloadable report for each site.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA chief executive, Michael Byrne, in Guernsey at Suite 4, 1st Floor, La Plaiderie Chambers, La Plaiderie, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1WG or in Jersey at the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Salisbury House, 1 - 9 Union Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3RF. Alternatively email info@cicra.gg.

In line with CICRA’s consultation policy, it intends to make responses to the consultation available on the CICRA website. Any material that is confidential should be put in a separate annex and clearly marked as such so that it may be kept confidential. CICRA regrets that it is not in a position to respond individually to the responses to this consultation.

About CICRA:

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities or 'CICRA' is the name given to the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) (formerly the Office of Utility Regulation). The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001, and the GCRA was established under The Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2012. In Jersey, the telecoms and postal sectors are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sectors are regulated by the GCRA, which is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Guernsey competition law since it came into force on 1 August 2012.

By working together and sharing resources and expertise between the islands, CICRA strives to ensure that consumers in all the Channel Islands receive best value, choice and access to high quality services.