



**28 March 2013**

## **CICRA media release**

### **Mobile mast emissions in Channel Islands all well within limits**

All emissions from mobile telephone masts in the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey are well within international limits, according to an independent study commissioned by CICRA (Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities).

The audit of every mobile mast, which took five months to complete by external specialists Red-M, found that the highest reading was only one-seventh of the agreed internationally-set safe limits (known as International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) standard).

CICRA commissioned the audit as part of its on-going obligations in both bailiwicks to provide information to the public on mobile mast emissions.

Red-M surveyed 80 sites in Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Herm and Jethou and 175 sites in Jersey for electromagnetic radiation (EM), and made a series of recommendations for the mobile operators and CICRA. A measure of the EM field strength levels was taken in 2G and 3G cellular frequency bands.

Channel Islands Strategic Lead for Environmental Health, Val Cameron, said the results were reassuring for Channel Islanders.

“The emissions from mobile phone masts are one of those issues that can cause the public some concern so it is particularly good news that all masts within the Channel Islands are well below agreed limits.”

CICRA Chief Executive, Andrew Riseley, said the results of the survey demonstrated that EM limits in the Channel Islands complied with international standards.

He said Red-M had made a series of recommendations which the regulator would be implementing including:

- Maintaining an up-to-date database of all mast sites including new sites, site upgrades and decommissions
- Ensuring that all mast sites have appropriate and visible signs
- Annual monitoring of a sample of mast sites, including random testing of low power base stations (or kiosks - usually in telephone boxes)
- Ensuring that indoor sites comply with touch-safe ICNIRP limits
- Encouraging site sharing between operators

Mr Riseley added, "Mobile telephony is a vital part of many people's daily lives. The range of services on offer to consumers in the Channel Islands through their mobile phones is increasing all the time and will only continue to grow with the development of high-speed mobile data and 4G.

"These services rely on a network of mobile masts which emit EM radiation. Under their telecommunications licences and planning consents the mobile operators are required to ensure that emissions from these masts comply with the international safety limits.

"CICRA monitors operators' compliance with these licence obligations and publishes emissions information so that local residents are informed as to emission levels from sites close to them.

CICRA has published digital maps of both bailiwicks on its website ([www.cicra.gg](http://www.cicra.gg)), showing the location of all masts with downloadable EM reports on each one.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

All sites were within ICNIRP guideline levels with the strongest Bailiwick of Guernsey site, on Little Sark, showing a 2.18% EQ (exposure quotient) reading, which equates to 1/46<sup>th</sup> of the ICNIRP limit. In Jersey, the site with the highest reading was at Kensington Car Park, at 14.3% EQ or 1/7<sup>th</sup> of ICNIRP limits.

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA Chief Executive, Andrew Riseley, in Guernsey at the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority, Suites B1 & B2, Hirzel Court, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2NH 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](mailto:info@cicra.gg).

## 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.