



9 November, 2017

Mobile mast emissions in the Channel Islands are well within international guidelines

Results of an independent mobile mast emissions audit across the Channel Islands show all masts are well within the safety standards set by international guidelines.

As part of the Channel Islands Competition & Regulatory Authorities' (CICRA's) role to inform and protect local consumers, it commissioned an independent audit of mobile mast emissions earlier this year. Results show every mast in Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm is well within the limits set by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

As a result of the roll out of the new 4G networks CICRA wanted to ensure that the network operators continued to meet the most up-to-date international mast emission standards. A total of 274 mobile mast sites were surveyed; 83 sites across Guernsey, Sark, Alderney and Herm and 191 in Jersey.

The audit measured the level of radio signals from the masts operated by the local mobile telecommunications network operators - Airtel, JT and Sure. Eight out of 10 of the masts have readings of less than 1% and none of the masts exceeded 15% of the maximum permitted limit.

CICRA's Director, Louise Read, said; "The emissions from mobile phone masts are a matter of public interest and can cause some concern, so it is reassuring that emissions from all masts within the Channel Islands continue to be well below internationally recognised safe limits."

CICRA's mast audit, conducted by specialists, iWireless, ensures Channel Islanders have up-to-date information about the masts, where they are and can be confident that emission levels are monitored.

CICRA will conduct a follow up audit annually of selected sites and any network updates as well as maintaining an annual register of the sites. Operators will be required to ensure sites are adequately signed and any indoor sites, or accessible sites, continue to meet the ICNIRP "touch safety" limits where they apply.

A full copy of the results of the audit has been published on CICRA's website including a map of all the sites and a downloadable report for each. Individual maps for Jersey, Guernsey, Sark and Alderney (Herm is included with Guernsey) can be found here: <https://www.cicra.gg/telecoms-masts/>

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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.