

Telecomms

RESULT OF DTI CONSULTATION ON ADDITIONAL APPROVED USERS OF THE mmO2 AIRWAVE RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK APRIL 2002

Introduction

This is the first consultation on additions to the approved user or sharers list attached to the Telecommunications Act licence held by Airwave mmO2 to run the radiocommunications system for the Police and other emergency users since the procedure was revised in February 2002. The purpose of the revision was to make the procedure for considering the merits of each proposed user more transparent and accountable.

The DTI received nine applications, seven of which were for completely new user groups and two were redefinitions or extensions of groups already on the list. The overall quality of the applications exceeded that seen in previous consultations, which aided the DTI in its decision making process. The Home Office, Scottish Office, Oftel and the Radiocommunications Agency were consulted on the merits of each applicant, as described in the outcome of the February procedure consultation. Applicants were required to answer thirteen questions (attached for reference). The purpose of the questions was to draw out sufficient information that could be used to assess the proposed user group against the following guiding principles:

That the proposed user:

1. responds to emergencies;
2. is involved in emergency situations reasonably frequently (proportionality);
3. is normally civilian; and
4. requires interaction with those who respond to emergencies (only if the main purpose of being on the Airwave service is interaction with the Emergency Services and if the proposed user requires instant connection with the Emergency Services).

Where the proposed user group belonged to a larger organisation, the DTI required information about the organisation as well as the user group and expected to see evidence that the non-Emergency users within the organisation were clearly excluded from the application. Information about the systems and methods currently employed to meet the emergency functions of the proposed user group were also required to properly assess the benefits of moving to Airwave and to understand better the user requirements.

Copies of the applications, minus confidential annexes, can be found at www.dti.gov.uk/cii/regulatory/telecomms/airwave.shtml.

This Consultation

The preliminary decision on each applicant is summarised below. Respondents are requested to consider whether the emergency function carried out by the proposed user group meets the guiding principles for inclusion.

Responses to the consultation should be sent via email to Jane Manning (jane.manning@dti.gov.uk). The consultation closes on Wednesday 5 June 2002.

Queries relating to the consultation procedure should be directed to Jane Manning and those concerning DTI policy on approved sharers should be sent to Jim Davies (jim.davies@dti.gov.uk).

For reference, details of the revised procedure can be found at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/industry_files/pdf/airwaveprocedure.pdf

Summary of proposed deletions (editorial)

Privatised Police Patrols (replaced by Street Wardens etc. entry).

NNARCS replacement (replaced by Nuclear Operators Emergency Radio System entry).

Questions

ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ANSWERED BY APPLICANTS AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE.

In this section, "Emergency Services" means those organisations who are permitted to carry blue flashing lights on their response vehicles, e.g., the Police, Fire and Ambulance services.

1. Name of the proposed user group and contact details for queries.
2. Organisation to which the proposed user group belongs (if different).
3. Describe in general the function and daily work of the proposed user group.
4. Briefly describe the function of the organisation to which the user group belongs (if different).
5. Number of mobile radio users in the organisation and of those, how many form the proposed user group?
6. Does the proposed user group respond to emergencies? If yes, give at least three examples, describing in particular how mobile communications are used. Include details of the frequency and type(s) of emergencies.
7. Does the proposed user group assist the emergency services in emergency situations? If yes, give at least three examples, describing in particular how mobile communications are used. Include details of the frequency and type(s) of emergencies.

8. Describe how the interaction in answers to 6 and 7 is carried out at present.
9. Could the required interaction during emergency situations be covered by the use of loaned Airwave terminals for a temporary period? If not, why?
10. Is the work of the proposed user group governed by a statutory obligation? If yes, give details and the ways in which the proposed user group meets the obligations in practice. If applicable, give details of contacts within Government departments that would be able to verify the user requirements and advise the DTI licensing section of the statutory requirements.
11. Where the proposed user group is a part of a larger organisation or community of radio users, explain how the non-emergency users will interact with the proposed user group, if it was on the Airwave network.
12. Is there any other information that DTI should be aware of, e.g. letters, organisational changes?
13. Finally, each application must be accompanied by a declaration that the proposed sharer would adopt the approved Home Office/PITO security codes of practice that accord with the 'RESTRICTED' classification of Airwave , should they be accepted as an approved user. Approved users can only take up Airwave if they sign up to the approved Home Office/PITO security codes of practice. The DTI does not hold details of the Code of Practice but applicants are expected to familiarise themselves with the Code and its requirements.

User Group (no of users in group/no in organisation)	Organisation	Approved ?	Reason/comments
Event Response Team Personnel (1,800/20,000)	Water Industry (1)	YES	<p>Require instant and direct one-to-one communications with Blue Light Emergency Services.</p> <p>Statutory obligations include requirement for dedicated emergency communication facilities and liaison with (among others) the Police and other emergency handling bodies on the details of emergency plans.</p>
Integrated Incident Management Personnel (1,600/4,760)	Highways Agency	YES	<p>Attend emergencies (most often road traffic accidents) at the request of the Emergency Services.</p> <p>Request if based on the need for real time one-to-one communication with Police officers at the scene of the emergency.</p> <p>Support from M25 Integrated Police Group.</p>
Flood Defence Officers Flood Defence Engineers Navigation Officers (600/7,500)	Environment Agency	YES	<p>Require instant and direct one-to-one communications with Blue Light Emergency Services in emergency situations.</p> <p>Flood Defence Emergency Response Project Report includes requirement for integrated incident management at local level between Police, Fire and the Environment Agency.</p>
RSPCA Inspectors RSPCA Animal	Royal Society for the Prevention of	YES	One-to-one communication required with Police officers and Fire Service in animal rescues. Liaison with the Police in dealing with road traffic

Collection Officers (500/660)	Cruelty to Animals		accidents and dangerous animals. Also written onto many local and regional emergency plans. Supported by two police forces.
Roads Maintenance Personnel (500/2000)	Highlands Council	YES	Require one-to-one direct and instant communication with Police, Fire and Ambulance personnel in emergency situations and extreme weather conditions in a unique harsh environment.
Street Lighting Personnel Environmental Health Dog Wardens (500/2000)	Highlands Council	NO	Lack of evidence of need for instant and direct communications with emergency services officers. Some mention of street light failure/knock- downs but no explanation of the work of the Dog Wardens or their emergency communication requirements.
Transco Gas Emergency Services Personnel (3,500/10,000)	TRANSCO (part of the Lattice Group)	YES	The proposed user group responds to emergencies (i.e. gas leaks) and works closely with Police Officers and Fire Fighters at the scene of emergencies involving gas. Evidence was given of the need for one-to-one instant communications with Emergency Services personnel on a regular basis.
Rapid Response Teams (200/26,000) Linesmen/Cable joiners (5,500/26,000) Operational Managers/Engineer s (700/26,000) Emergency Co- ordination staff	Electricity Association	NO	The application contained good examples of the types of emergencies that the organisation deals with on a regular basis but it lacked detail on the requirements of each user group. It may be that some of the groups put forward could be appropriate users of the Airwave Network but a much stronger case needs to be made for each group and must be based on individual's need to speak directly and instantly to Emergency Services personnel

<p>(200/26,000)</p> <p>Control Rooms and Control Engineers (200/26,000)</p> <p>Generating station Emergency Response Staff (200,26,000)</p>			<p>(Police/Ambulance/Fire). The case for operational staff such as cable jointers and linesmen appears particularly weak, based on the information given so far.</p>
<p>Nuclear Operators Emergency Radio System users.</p>	<p>Nuclear Industry (2)</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Users of the National Nuclear Accident Response Communication System (NNARCS) replacement are already approved users. These new proposed users perform the same function as those already approved but are not included under the current definition because NNARCS is not used at these sites. The operational need of these additional, identical user groups is accepted</p>

Neighbourhood Wardens	DTLR or Local Authority funded and managed Uniformed Street Wardens	YES	<p>These groups could be covered under the term “Privatised Police Patrols”, which is already included on the approved list. However, for transparency a formal application was made. These groups essentially perform the same or very similar function to that of beat police officers. Their need for communications with Police Officers is therefore the same as that of Police Officers.</p> <p>These group names will replace “Privatised Police Patrols” to accurately and clearly list the Groups that are approved users.</p>
Borough Police			
Parish Constables			
Safe and Clean Teams			
Urban Rangers			
Community Safety Officers			
Community Support Officers			
Investigating Officers			
Detention Officers			
Escort Officers			

(1) WATER INDUSTRY

Anglian Water Services Ltd	South East Water plc
Bournemouth & West Hants Water plc	South Staffordshire Water plc
Bristol Water plc Welsh Water	South West Water Services Ltd
Cambridge Water plc Northumbrian Water Ltd	Southern Water Services Ltd
Dee Valley Water plc	Sutton & East Surrey Water plc
Essex & Suffolk Water plc	Tendring Hundred Water Services Ltd
Folkestone & Dover Water Ltd	Thames Water Utilities Ltd
Hartlepool Water plc	Three Valleys Water plc
Mid Kent Water plc	Wessex Water Services Ltd
North West Water Ltd	Yorkshire Water Services Ltd
Portsmouth Water plc	Scottish Water
Severn Trent Water Systems Ltd	

(2) NUCLEAR INDUSTRY


British Energy Generation Ltd
British Energy Generation (UK) Ltd
BNFL
BNFL Magnox Generation

ADDITIONS TO AIRWAVE SHARERS LIST - MARCH 2002 APPLICATIONS


The closing date for the next round of applications was 8 March. The DTI has received nine applications from groups wishing to become approved users of the Airwave radiocommunications system. Two of the applications concern proposals for a redefinition and/or clarification of groups already on the list of approved users (also known as the "sharers list"). The DTI is currently considering whether each application meets the criteria for approved users and will publish its preliminary decision the week commencing 1 April 2002. Interested parties will be able to respond to the preliminary decision for a period of 28 days from publication.

Copies of each application can be viewed via the following links:


[Highways Agency](#)

 (42Kb)

[Electricity Association](#)

 (43Kb)

[Environment Agency](#)

 (39Kb)

Highlands Council	 (28Kb)
Nuclear Industry	 (36Kb)
RSPCA	 (31Kb)
Street Wardens/Neighbourhood Patrols	 (24Kb)
Transco	 (41Kb)
Water Industry (CSS)	 (45Kb)


Information about the Airwave system can be found at: www.bt.com/airwave

REVISED PROCEDURE (for reference)

Details of the result of the consultation on a revised procedure for adding sharers to the Airwave mm02 Telecommunications Act licence and instructions for prospective applicants are now available.

[Result of the DTI consultation on revised procedure for amendments to the mm02](#)

[Airwave Telecommunications Act licence](#)  (29Kb)

[Application information for prospective users of the Airwave mm02 public safety network \(closing date for applications Friday 8 March 2002\)](#)  (11Kb)

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