

FAO:
Chief Executive
Chief Planning Officer
By email

2 February 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Emergency Services Network (ESN) – Briefing Note

I write to introduce myself as Director of the Home Office's procurement programme for the new mobile telecommunications service that is being rolled out for the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services in England, Scotland and Wales. I would like to ask for your support in delivering this critical national infrastructure programme.

The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP – the Programme) is responsible for delivering a smarter, better and cheaper communications capability that will replace the system currently used by our three Emergency Services (3ES) known as Airwave. We are already working to deliver the new service – the Emergency Services Network (ESN) – in conjunction with a number of industry partners, most notably EE.

My team have produced the enclosed briefing note about ESN and its constituent parts – I hope you will find to be a useful high level introduction to: who is involved in delivering ESN and who it is for; why it is required; how it is being procured; and where and when it is required. The brief highlights key messages including the important benefits that will be derived once ESN is operational.

A positive relationship between the Programme and land and property stakeholders is clearly essential to the successful delivery of ESN. My team have already undertaken a considerable amount of work (in conjunction with EE) on site options that would deliver ESN to the appropriate levels of coverage required to meet the operational needs of our 3ES. Existing telecoms installations are routinely considered in the first instance. The final locations remain subject to further study and feasibility reporting and we are now at the point where site visits and engagement with planning authorities and potential landowners must commence.

Depending on contractual arrangements, local engagement could be undertaken by staff from the Home Office or from a variety of industry suppliers – but we are all working to the same end of delivering ESN. The land and property leads in my team are Duncan Edgar (duncan.edgar@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) and Laura Doran (laura.doran@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) who are on hand to answer any further queries you may have, including providing a personal briefing if that would be of benefit. Duncan is our focal point of contact for England and National Parks and Laura is our focal point for Scotland and Wales.

I very much hope that through Duncan and Laura the Programme will build a good working relationship with you and your respective teams so that we are collectively able to support the delivery of ESN across England, Scotland and Wales to better enable our 3ES to cut crime, fight fires and save lives.

Thank you in anticipation for your help and continued interest as the Programme proceeds.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

Gordon Shipley
Programme Director ESMCP

[Redacted contact information]