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By Lisa Walton at 10:03 am, Jun 18, 2024



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17 June 2024

Dear Lisa,

Thank you for your letter of 7 June 2024 regarding the planning application on the telecommunications mast on St Mary's, Isles of Scilly.

I can confirm the application for planning regarding the air to ground equipment is a legitimate request and entirely necessary on St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly. The Home Office Air to Ground team made this application in June 2019 to Cellnex who manage the site on behalf of Arqiva. The team has requested six antenna sectors on this site which gives the air-based emergency services coverage over the Isles and throughout the Cornwall and Devon coastline. The equipment will provide enhanced coverage, which is necessary for the use of, National Police Air Service, Air Ambulance Service and the Coastguard. As a matter of fact, this is a crucial site for the South West of England Air to Ground network.

Your Local Planning Department will see that our ICNIRP calculations are accurate and are well within the safety regulations required, they have been designed and calculated by experienced Home Office Radio Planners for the Air to Ground service.

The generator which has been planned on site is solely for providing back up power should the site be affected by any power outages. The generator is needed as a precaution with the island being a long ferry journey, or flight, away, as it would take engineers several hours to get there and remedy any faults there may be with restoring power to the site. The generator ensures the emergency services will have continuous coverage in this type of event.

I hope this answers the questions which have arisen, please let me know if you need any further information or my colleague Michael Kulezich, responsible for Air to Ground network delivery, will be happy to call you in person.

Yours sincerely,

Rab McDowall

Head of Coverage
Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)