

Please find below the Air Traffic Control provider, NATS (NATS En-Route Ltd/NERL) response to the above Call for Evidence; we are grateful for the opportunity to review and comment.

NERL has previously raised concerns in correspondence with both DCLG and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in relation to proposals to relax some of the planning controls which currently exist in relation to the development of mobile communications masts. Whilst NERL acknowledges the desire of the government, and indeed of many other sectors of the British economy, to facilitate, improve and speed up the development of communications infrastructure including broadband, any move to do so by extending the scope for permitted development in this area should be accompanied by appropriate safeguards. This is important in order to ensure that NERL is consulted and has the opportunity to make representations in relation to the development of communications infrastructure which has the potential to impact upon the operation of its assets and systems. It is also NATS's advice that airports' and the CAA's view on the matter are sought and taken into account