



Home Office

# **Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)**

## **Public consultation on additional telecommunications coverage to be provided for the Emergency Services Network (ESN)**

Summary of Consultation Responses and  
next steps

# Introduction

1. The Home Office-led Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) is a cross-departmental Programme set up to develop and deliver new communications services to replace the current Airwave system. The new service will be called the Emergency Services Network (ESN).
2. The ESN will be a more affordable, more capable and more flexible communications network, than the existing Airwave mobile radio system currently used by the 3 emergency services in England, Scotland and Wales. It will be provided by a 4G LTE commercial Mobile Network Operator. The consultation sought responses from those who may be in a position to support the provision of network infrastructure in the target areas. This could be through ownership of specific telecommunications infrastructure or having plans to build such infrastructure.
3. The consultation document can be seen here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-emergency-services-mobile-communications-programme/emergency-services-network> and the full list of questions is at Annex A of this document.

## About this Consultation

4. The consultation document was published on the .GOV website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-emergency-services-mobile-communications-programme/emergency-services-network> . A full list of respondents can be found at Annex B at the end of this document.

## Method

5. The consultation took place over a four week period from 1 September 2015 to 29 September 2015. Respondents were invited to answer the questions either by email to [ESMCPComms@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ESMCPComms@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) or in writing to:

Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme  
Home Office  
Peel Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

The map provided in the consultation document was relatively low resolution due to size constraints on the website. Those requiring more detailed mapping were invited to contact the Programme. Eighteen requests for the more detailed map were received.

## Summary of Responses

6. In total, we received eight responses; six came from commercial infrastructure companies, one from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) and one from Argyll and Bute Council. The respondents did not identify any competition concerns with the measure. Three of the responses contain lists and/or maps of existing infrastructure which is owned or controlled by the respondents. Some of this infrastructure is in the identified areas which may be of assistance in delivering ESN. Three of

the respondents have asked for the lists to be treated in confidence, due to commercial sensitivity.

7. The Government would like to thank all those who responded.

## Government Response to the Consultation and Next Steps

8. The Home Office will now consider whether the infrastructure described in the responses may be of assistance in their development of ESN coverage and what impact that may have on our developing proposals to provide coverage in those areas.

9. Where the sites provided overlap with the target areas, the Home Office will contact the respondents directly and discuss with them whether the infrastructure is technically suitable for use in the ESN network, checking that they are in the correct location and that they have the correct specification. If it looks to represent improved value for money to utilise the existing infrastructure, we will then proceed with commercial discussions with the infrastructure owners. The impact of this approach will be to ensure that existing infrastructure is utilised where practicable, reducing costs for the Home Office, and ensuring that market distortions are minimised.

# Annex A – List of Consultation Questions

## **Question 1**

If you are a provider of mobile infrastructure services, do you have any current or planned (next 3 years) investments in the target areas indicated on the maps?

## **Question 2**

If you are an interested party regarding mobile infrastructure services, do you have any current or planned (next 3 years) investments in the target areas indicated on the maps?

## **Question 3**

If you provide emergency services in England, Scotland and or Wales, and are connected with the provision of mobile infrastructure services, do you have or are you aware of any current or planned (next 3 years) investments in the target areas indicated on the maps?

## **Question 4**

If you are a member of the public, do you have or are you aware of any current or planned (next 3 years) investments in the target areas indicated on the maps?

## **Question 5**

If you have answered yes to any of the questions above, please provide information concerning current or planned (next 3 years) investments in the target areas indicated on the maps.

## Annex B – Respondents to the Consultation

Airwave Services Ltd	Infrastructure company
Argyll and Bute Council	Infrastructure owner
Arqiva	Infrastructure company
Avanti Communications Group	Infrastructure company
Communication Property Services Ltd.	Site acquisition, design, estate management and facilities management services to support telecommunication industry requirements
Construction Site Services Ltd.	Telecommunications Quality Auditing Company
Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council)	Infrastructure owner
Scottish Hydro Electric (SSE) Enterprise Telecoms	Infrastructure company