



Roads Service Policy & Procedure Guide: RSPPG_ E028

Title: Telecommunication Masts on Departmental Land

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Classification

Procedure Category: Engineering
Business Category: Network Development
Business Function: Land Use
Business Activity: Management

Notes

The policy to deal with requests for the siting of telecommunications masts on Departmental land was undertaken by Water Service.

Certification

This document complies with Roads Service Policy and is to be implemented with effect from the date of issue.

(Signed)

Director of Engineering

Certification Date:

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Purpose	3
1.2	Definitions	3
1.3	Background	3
1.4	Implementation	3
1.5	Costs and Benefits	3
2	ROADS SERVICE POLICY & PROCEDURE	4
2.1	Policy for the Erection of Telecommunication Masts on Departmental Land	4
2.2	Policy for the Erection of Telecommunication Masts within the Road Boundary	5
3	Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	6
3.1	Equality Impact Assessment Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998	6
4	Reference	7
4.1	General References	7

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This Roads Service Policy & Procedure Guide (RSPPG):-

- a) Is aimed at all Roads Service Staff.

1.2 Definitions

1.2.1 Base station – a fixed radio transmitter/receiver including all components i.e. antenna, mast, equipment housing, cable runs, fencing etc.

1.2.2 Telecommunication Masts – to include masts, dishes and associated apparatus.

1.3 Background

1.3.1 Following a review carried out by Water Service, the then Minister for Regional Development approved a policy to deal with requests for siting of telecommunication masts on Departmental land.

1.3.2 Roads Service has considered the policy and is content it also applies to Roads Service land outside the road boundary.

1.3.3 This policy does not apply to lands within public road boundaries, where telecommunications operators have certain statutory rights to install their equipment. Refer to Section 2.2.

1.4 Implementation

1.4.1 This RSPPG to be implemented from the date of issue.

1.5 Costs and Benefits

1.5.1 The anticipated costs arising from the implementation of this RSPPG are :-

1.5.1.1 None

1.5.2 The anticipated benefits deriving from the implementation of this RSPPG are:-

1.5.2.1 A consistent approach to applications made by telecommunication operators.

2 Roads Service Policy & Procedure

2.1 Policy for the Erection of Telecommunication Masts on Departmental Land

2.1.1 Roads Service will not actively market its sites for use by telecommunication operators, but will adopt a cautiously reactive approach to requests.

2.1.2 All applications for sites for new masts, or to use spare capacity on existing masts, will be considered on a case by case basis using the following assessment criteria:

2.1.2.1 The proposed installation must not affect Roads Services own operational effectiveness.

2.1.2.2 The telecommunication operator must obtain planning approval for the proposed mast or dish.

2.1.2.3 The telecommunication operator must provide evidence to Roads Service that it has undertaken meaningful consultation with residents who live in the vicinity of the site of the proposed mast or dish.

2.1.2.4 The proposed mast or dish must comply with the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection guidelines.

2.1.2.5 Mast and site sharing shall be encouraged where practicable.

2.1.2.6 The views of Roads Service staff, who will work in proximity to the proposed mast or dish, will be sought through the normal consultative machinery.

2.1.3 Subject to these criteria being satisfied, Roads Service will normally permit the use of its land by telecommunications operators, subject to the payment of an annual rental charge.

2.1.4 Roads Service shall however reserve the right to decline to enter into an agreement with a telecommunications operator, subject to treating all applicants equitably.

2.1.5 The Valuation and Lands Agency will carry out an annual audit to ensure that rental charges are at an appropriate level.

2.1.6 Base station emissions shall be audited on a cyclical basis to ensure that emissions remain within the specified guidelines.

2.1.7 The policy shall be kept under continuous review and modified as required to take account of further developments, or guidance from the regulatory authorities in light of any further research evidence that emerges.

Version : 1

2.2 Policy for the Erection of Telecommunication Masts within the Road Boundary

2.2.1 This policy does not apply to lands within public road boundaries, where telecommunications operators have certain statutory rights to install their equipment.

2.2.2 It will not normally apply to land purchased for future road improvements, as the mast may interfere with the proposed works.

2.2.3 Any proposed installation within the road boundary shall require Technical Approval as set out in BD 2 Technical Approval of Highway Structures; refer to Volume 1 of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges¹.

3 Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

3.1.1 This RSPPG has been considered in terms of Section 75 equality implications and it was considered that as this was an internal policy and did not have significant implications for equality of opportunity it was unnecessary to carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment.

4 References

4.1 General References

4.1.1 BD 2 Technical Approval of Highway Structures, Volume 1 of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (The Stationery Office).

Version: 1

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Document History

Version	Date	Author	Authorised by Document Control Panel Members Name : Signature
1	November 03	William Kerr	R Crilly

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Version	Reasons
1	First Issue of RSPPG E028

Revision Details

Version	Amendments