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Ms Lorraine Stanton
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Dear Ms Stanton,

Thank you for your email of 1 January to the Home Secretary about the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme. As I am sure you can appreciate, the Home Secretary receives a large amount of correspondence and is unable to reply personally to each item received. Your email has therefore been passed to the Direct Communications Unit at the Home Office and I have been asked to reply. Please accept my apologies for the delay in our response.

Our priority is to roll out the new Emergency Services Network (ESN) as soon as possible for use by the emergency services. The new network is being built by the mobile network operator EE.

As the network is upgraded and extended for the emergency services, EE will offer a commercial service to the public from those sites, although for some very remote locations this depends on the technology used to connect the site to the telecommunications system.

In locations where ESN infrastructure is used by EE to offer a commercial service, all other UK mobile operators will have access to the network on an equal access basis.

For those sites in remote and rural locations the Home Office is working with the Welsh Government, Scottish Government and DCMS to identify proposed masts which could improve mobile coverage, with a view to potentially building these masts to a design which will enable them to be readily enhanced to accommodate multiple operators.

As part of this process the existing Airwave mast is being considered as part of the wider requirement for the Manafon area.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

R Roy
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