

Our ref: CTIL_30284001_TEF_88846_NA (Opt A)

Mr Afzal Khan MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Email: afzal.khan.mp@parliament.uk

VIA EMAIL

01st April 2020

Dear Mr Khan

PROPOSED RADIO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL_30284001_TEF_88846_NA (OPT A) SW ON PRINCESS ROAD (OPT A), SW ON PRINCESS ROAD, MANCHESTER, M14 7FS, N.G.R E: 383863 N: 393921

Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (Cornerstone) is a joint venture company owned by Vodafone Limited and Telefónica UK Limited, commonly known as O2, who manage a single grid network across the UK for these companies. This agreement allows both organisations to pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two, independent, nationwide networks. It maximises opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations and where possible can significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development.

5G rollout has begun and both Vodafone and Telefónica are in the process of upgrading their existing radio base stations in their single grid network wherever possible. As part of this continued network improvement program, there is a specific technical requirement to provide new 5G coverage in this area of Manchester. An existing streetworks style base station has been identified in the area, however it cannot accommodate for both operators latest requirements. In order to fit in to the operator's single grid network, an additional new streetworks style base station is required for Telefónica service in close proximity to the existing streetworks style base station that will be retained and in due course upgraded with improved Vodafone service.

As a result we are consulting with communities in line with Best Practice principles where planning applications for new telecommunications installations are required. This letter is sent to you in the pre-planning application consultation phase of the development for a new mobile phone base station site for Telefonica. It is simply intended to keep you informed and advised of the proposed development in your area prior to any planning application being submitted. However, if you do wish to submit comments or have been contacted by your constituents in relation to this matter and wish to send us comments on their behalf, please feel free to do so via the following address:

Community Consultation & EMF Enquiries, Hive 2, 1530 Arlington Business Park, Theale,
Berkshire, RG7 4SA
Email: community@ctil.co.uk

What follows is a summary of the proposal and some further information that might be of use.
Summary of the proposal

A number of options have been assessed in respect of the site search process but we consider the best option for the new service provision to comprise Installation of a 20m slim-line column supporting 6 no. antennas, 2 no. transmission dishes, 2 no. equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto including a GPS module, and 3 no. Remote Radio Units (RRUs) at the **SW ON PRINCESS ROAD, MANCHESTER, M14 7FS, N.G.R E: 383863 N: 393921**. This is because the operator is limited in siting options as there is a requirement to provide equivalent replacement coverage and capacity for this area of Manchester. The replacement of an existing site means that the operator has to be located as close as possible to the existing installation in order to maintain the provision of equivalent coverage and capacity to the surrounding local area. This is the nearest suitable location that the operator is able to position their replacement apparatus.

The proposed height at 20m is essential in order to provide equivalent replacement coverage to the target coverage area. 5G new radio technologies operate in higher frequency bands than older technologies. Since it operates at higher frequencies where attenuation of the radio signal is naturally higher and the effects of clutter are greater it will normally require a higher structure to achieve the same coverage footprint.

In order to minimise the width of the proposed column, the antennas are split in to a dual stack formation where 3 antennas will be located at the top of the column and the other 3 antennas will be located underneath. Thus, if the column were to be any lower, the antennas would not be able to operate effectively nor reach the target coverage area.

The column is a simple, functional, vertical structure necessary to provide replacement and new service provision to Manchester and the surrounding area. There are other vertical structures in the streetscene which will help it assimilate in to the local environ. The column is proposed to be finished in a grey colour but can be coloured any other colour that the LPA consider appropriate.

The cabinets are designed to appear like other statutory undertakers equipment cabinets. They are small for telecommunications apparatus and are proposed to be coloured green to assimilate with other equipment cabinets commonly found in urban environments. The cabinets can be installed under the operators permitted development rights, but have been included on the plans and in the description in order to remain fully transparent.

The RRUs are designed to make the antennas more efficient and reduce the need for equipment cabinets at ground level, therefore minimising ground level clutter in this area. They are located underneath the lowest set of antennas, out of the natural eye line of the casual passer-by and therefore will not appear prominent in the streetscene.

The other site options that were considered and then discounted are as follows:

Site ³	Site Name and address		NGR	Reason for not choosing ⁴
ETS - existing Telecom site	Name	Existing site (NR_85069)		RD - Redevelopment not possible
	Line 1	Princess Road	Eastings	The operator has fully investigated upgrading this site to provide the latest technologies for 4G services as well as new 5G coverage / capacity in to the Telefonica network. However, the design of the existing pole is not able to support the new 5G antennas for both Vodafone and Telefonica. To continue to share an existing structure at this location would require significant redevelopment of the existing structure to a much more structurally robust mast capable of hosting all the equipment from both operators. This would move away from the relatively uniform and slimline street furniture poles proposed and therefore it is felt that a secondary, more slimline, street-pole is a more appropriate and sensitive solution to 5G service provision whilst minimising impact for a street furniture setting. This existing telecommunications site has been discounted for Telefonica's new technology requirements for this reason. A new replacement site for Telefonica is therefore needed to provide this operator with the latest 2G, 3G 4G and 5G technologies. The existing site will remain in place for Vodafone technologies.
	Line 2	Whalley Range	383897	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393807	
	Postcode	M20 1BH		
ETS - existing Telecom site	Name	Existing site (3_M0523)		RD - Redevelopment not possible
	Line 1	Princess Road	Eastings	Existing SW Sites operated by 3 cannot be redeveloped by a second operator without substantial redevelopment into a more traditional/substantial structure which would require a large foundation base. This type of development cannot be undertaken on the public highway as there is insufficient space. In addition, EE are looking to upgrade all their SW sites in the near future for 5G. These reasons make this site unavailable for any sharing by the Operator.
	Line 2	Wilbraham Road	383896	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393853	
	Postcode	M20 1BH		
ETS - existing Telecom site	Name	Existing EE SW site (Orange_GMN0290)		RD - Redevelopment not possible
	Line 1	Princess Road	Eastings	Existing SW Sites operated by EE cannot be redeveloped by a second operator without substantial redevelopment into a more traditional/substantial structure which would require a large foundation base. This type of development cannot be undertaken on the public highway as there is insufficient space. In addition, EE are looking to upgrade all their SW sites in the near future for 5G. These reasons make this site unavailable for any sharing by the Operator.
	Line 2	Whalley Range	383866	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393855	
	Postcode	M16 8GW		
GF - Greenfield	Name	Whalley Grange High School		T - Technical Difficulties
	Line 1	Wilbraham Road	Eastings	The Schoolplaying Field was considered as a location for the proposed mast, however as this sites at a lower level than Princess Road, a mast with a height of approx 25 metres would be required. The applicatn deemed that a structure this tall would not be acceptable and would have a greater visual impact on the area than the proposed site would have.
	Line 2		383844	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393859	
	Postcode	M16 8GW		
RT - Roof Top	Name	Tudor House		T - Technical Difficulties
	Line 1	252 Mauldeth Road West	Eastings	The rooftop is too low in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target coverage area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
	Line 2	Whalley Range	383844	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393786	
	Postcode	M21 7TH		
GF - Greenfield	Name	BP Petrol Station		RD - Redevelopment not possible
	Line 1	Princess Road	Eastings	A mast at this location is not viable due to a physical lack of space in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
	Line 2	Whalley Range	383908	
	Town	Manchester	Northings	
	County	Greater Manchester	393947	
	Postcode	M14 7FS		

In line with Best Practice principles we have shared these details with planning officers, the local ward councillors for Fallowfield ward.

ICNIRP Compliance

All Telefónica installations are designed to be fully compliant with the public exposure guidelines established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). These guidelines have the support of UK Government, the European Union and they also have the formal backing of the World Health Organisation. A certificate of ICNIRP compliance will be included within the planning submission.

Radio technology and health

Useful information sources on this include:

Code of Best Practice on Mobile Network Development

<http://www.mobileuk.org/cms-assets/documents/259876-147086.code-of-best-practice-2016-edition-pub>

National Planning Policy Framework www.communities.gov.uk

World Health Organisation – Electromagnetic Fields www.who.int/peh-emf/en

International Commission on Non Ionising Radiation Protection www.icnirp.de

I trust all is clear from the enclosed but if you have further questions on this or any other matter concerning Telefónica please do not hesitate to contact us through Community Consultation & EMF Enquiries within 14 days from the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Hann".

Jennie Hann BSc MTPL MRTPI

Planning Manager

Clarke Telecom

Tel: +44 (0)161 785 4500

Fax: +44 (0)161 785 4501

Email: jennie.hann@clarke-telecom.com

(For and on behalf of Cornerstone and Telefónica UK Limited)