

The Television Reception Mitigation Strategy (TRMS)

The planning condition (17) relating to television reception sates;

Notwithstanding the Greenheys, Manchester Science Park, Television and Radio Reception Impact Assessment by GTech dated 26-04-23 stamped as received on 10-05-23 prior to commencement of development a TV reception mitigation strategy for

(a) the construction; and

(b) post construction phases

shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority .

In line with the recommendations in the above this shall comprise one of the following:

(i) Relocation of affected antennas outside of signal shadow; or

(ii) Where antenna relocation is not possible, arrange for alternative reception of TV broadcasts that is the same as existing, but is unaffected by signal shadowing (e.g. to an alternate provider) the applicant will pay for any requirement to switch over, new hardware and net additional subscription costs.)

For the avoidance of doubt this shall use available evidence of the existing TV viewing requirements of affected properties, the strategy will assess the most appropriate mitigation and provide a programme for implementation.

The mitigation shall then be implemented in accordance with the approved strategy and programme.

If following commencement of construction of the hereby approved development, any interference complaint received by the Local Planning Authority shall be investigated to identify whether the reported television interference is caused by the Development hereby permitted. The Local Planning Authority will inform the developer of the television interference complaint received. Once notified, the developer shall instruct a suitably qualified person to investigate the interference complaint within 6 weeks and notify the Local Planning Authority of the results and the proposed mitigation solution. If the interference is deemed to have been caused by the Development, hereby permitted mitigation will be installed as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than 3 months from submission of the initial investigation to the Local Planning Authority. No action shall be required in relation to television interference complaints after the date 12 months from the completion of development.

With respect to part (a) and part (b) of planning condition 17, the developer will follow this procedure.

Investigation of Television Interference

To enable the interference reporting process, contact phone numbers will be displayed on the hoarding surrounding the Site, should any local resident wish to discuss television interference (or any other construction matter) with the developer. A community liaison team will also operate, which offers an additional communication channel.

If reports of television interference are received, a procedure is required to enable the developer to determine the validity of a claim and to understand the extent of the potential interference problem. It is recommended that the following information is recorded for any reports of interference. If clusters or patterns of interference form, such data would quickly enable an investigation to take place and will greatly decrease the time taken to resolve the matter.

Based on information received from the developer, an initial investigation would be carried out to validate the claim. For an expert to undertake this, the developer is required to log any complaints and the operational times and dates of any tower crane use. In addition, the complainant will complete the TV Interference Questionnaire.

The log should contain the following as a minimum;

- full contact details of the complainant (name, address, contact number etc.)
- *a physical description of the interference (sporadic, constant, digital interference effects (loss of sound, green blocking on received images etc.) and identifying which TV sets are affected*
- *if satellite television reception has been affected (this would include FreeSat and Sky)*
- *the dates and the times of day when interference is noticed*
- *the channels the interference affects (particularly important for DTT services)*
- *when the interference was first noticed (time and date)*

This information would then be assessed through the findings of the report (*Greenheys, Manchester Science Park, Television and Radio Reception Impact Assessment by GTech dated 26-04-23*) to validate any claim or claims. Previous experience has shown that most reports of interference have been down to either; user error with equipment; damaged or incorrectly set up receiving equipment; or confusion regarding domestic technical appliances. Most reception problems can be resolved with simple technical advice. However, if a pattern of interference emerges that corresponds with any theoretical or predicted impacts, or if clusters of interference have formed within the study area, further field investigations may be required.

If the complaints are found to be valid, the developer will employ the services of a local, registered aerial installer (for example, a Confederation of Aerial Industries member) who will remedy the identified impairment. The details regarding the required time scales for investigation work and mitigation are presented in planning condition 17.

The Local Planning Authority will be informed of the outcome of each interference complaint in a spreadsheet or similar log.

Possible Mitigation

In some cases, upgrading to a modern and professionally installed antenna system will help reduce interference. It is vital that a registered professional, as detailed below, undertakes any antenna work. Betterment of antenna systems could include any of the following;

- Replacement of components not fit for purpose (damaged, water ingress in cables / antennas, electrically faulty, old brown type coaxial etc.)
- Replacement or installation of a mast head amplifier and new antenna (for DTT services)
- Replacement of old coaxial cable to better signal throughput and to reduce unwanted external electrical pickup
- Installation of a higher gain antenna (for DTT services)
- Relocation of a satellite dish to avoid obstructions on the line-of-sight
- Good earthing on antenna systems and associated components to help reduce unwanted electrical system noise and unwanted electrical pickup
- Installation of a higher antenna (above ground level) in a location as far away from any obstruction as possible i.e. on another higher chimney stack etc. (for both DTT and Satellite services)

These are common and simple mitigation solutions for similar situations where local television reception conditions have been affected by adjacent new development and or construction activities. A registered installer should be able to advise on the most effective mitigation measures once the existing installed antenna system has been inspected and new development / construction activities generated interference has been identified.

It is recommended that all antenna work (antenna repair / betterment, satellite dish relocation etc.) is undertaken by a registered installer (CAI accredited) and any antenna system components used must be CAI benchmarked. More information regarding the Confederation of Aerial Industries can be found on the CAI website¹.

1 - <https://www.cai.org.uk/index.php/about>

The CAI's benchmarking scheme ensures that the cables and antennas have passed minimum requirements for the use of DTT and digital satellite television reception. The use on non-benchmarked products in an antenna system would degrade overall performance and effectiveness of the system, increasing the risk from interference. More information on CAI benchmarked products can be found on the CAI's website².

2 - <https://www.cai.org.uk/index.php/services/product-certification-scheme>

Television Signal Survey Questionnaire

Contact details *please highlight (in bold or circle) your required method of contact*

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

About your TV Signal

What provides the signal to the Televisions in your home?

☐

Digital Satellite (Sky/Freesat)

☐

Digital Terrestrial (Freeview)

☐

Cable/Broadband (BT/Virgin Media)

Which of these rooms do you have a Television in?

☐

Lounge

☐

Bedroom 2

☐

Dining room

☐

Bedroom 3

☐

Kitchen

☐

Bedroom 4

☐

Bedroom 1

☐

Bedroom 5

☐

Other

Please specify _____

Which of these Televisions have been affected by interference since the construction operations?

☐

Lounge

☐

Bedroom 2

☐

Dining room

☐

Bedroom 3

☐

Kitchen

☐

Bedroom 4

☐

Bedroom 1

☐

Bedroom 5

☐

Other

Please specify

What interference have you been experiencing?

When does this happen?

☐

Daytime

☐

Night time

How often does this happen?

☐

Daily

☐

Weekly

☐

Monthly

☐

Yearly

What Channels are affected?

When did you first notice the interference?

Please feel free to add any additional comments

Signature:..... Date:.....