



CEP Telecoms Ltd. Suite 5 Bowcliffe Court, Bowcliffe Hall, Bramham, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 6LP

**Our ref:** ANW\_M146

**Date:** 26/03/2026

The Chief Planning Officer  
Manchester City Council  
PO Box 532  
Town Hall  
Manchester  
M60 2LA

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Arqiva Ltd - Smart Water Metering Network for United Utilities**

**Permitted Development – Prior Approval Determination Application at Pavement at Sedgeborough Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M16 7FJ.**

On behalf of Arqiva Ltd, we submit herewith an application for a prior approval determination for the installation of electronic communications apparatus at the above site as part of United Utilities' Smart Water Meter Network. The application follows the completion of our pre-application consultation exercise, reflecting so far as is practicable the guidance and comments offered.

Arqiva Ltd is designated as an Electronic Communications Code Operator under the provisions of the Communications Act 2003 and operates in accordance with the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003, as amended.

The application is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Part 16 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, as amended, and seeks a determination as to whether the Authority's approval will be required for the siting and appearance of the development.

The application comprises:

- i. The written description of the development:

PROPOSED ARQIVA SMART METERING 1No. OMNI ANTENNA AT 13.83m MEAN MOUNTED ON PROPOSED 12m STREETWORKS POLE.

PROPOSED ARQIVA SMART METERING 1No. GPS ANTENNA AT 12.3m MEAN MOUNTED ON PROPOSED STREETWORKS POLE.

PROPOSED ARQIVA SMART METERING 1No. 3G OMNI ANTENNA AT 4.19m MEAN MOUNTED ON PROPOSED STREETWORKS POLE.

PROPOSED ARQIVA SMART METERING EQUIPMENT ENCLOSURE TO BE INSTALLED ON TOWER BASE.



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- ii. An O.S. site plan scale **(1:1250)** Reference Number: UUW\_M146 (Drawing No: 325807-00-004-ML001 Rev 1) showing the location where the base station will be installed
- iii. Payment of £648 in respect of the application fee
- iv. The Developer's Notice
- v. The Developer's contact details

The following information is also provided to assist with your determination of the application:

- vi. Drawing reference numbers – UUW\_M146 (325807\_01\_100\_MD003 Rev3; 325807\_01\_101\_MD003 Rev3; 325807\_01\_150\_MD003 Rev3) providing further details of the siting, layout and design of the development
- vii. A supporting Planning Statement that includes design considerations
- viii. An ICNIRP Certificate

### **The Scope of the Prior Approval Determination**

The permitted development rights granted by Part 16 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, as amended (the GPDO), exist to facilitate the establishment of modern communications apparatus and infrastructure, judged by successive governments to be important to a modern economy and in attaining sustainability objectives.

The permitted development granted subject to the prior approval procedure is similar to the grant of outline planning permission, with details of precise siting and appearance being reserved. This is explained at paragraph 92 of the Code of Practice for Wireless Network Development in England, March 2022. The National Planning Policy Framework is also accordingly clear that permitted development rights should not generally be withdrawn.

As a consequence, the scope of determination does not extend to whether the site selected is needed, as the development is acceptable in principle due to planning permission granted by Article 3 and the associated permitted development rights by Part 16 Communications of the GPDO. Likewise, whilst information on alternative sites may be supplied by way of background and context, the extent of control on siting is limited to the precise siting on a site and not the general location.

As the principle of development at the application site is permitted by the GPDO, this support letter focuses on the statutory criteria of detailed siting and appearance. In so doing, this is considered against current town and country planning guidance, including the development plan and other material considerations, and with reference to the operational requirements of the operator and the attempts to accommodate the particular requirement.



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## **The Proposed Development**

United Utilities is a water and wastewater service provider with more than seven million domestic and business customers in the North West of England. United Utilities is committed to a large-scale smart meter rollout across the North West, with a goal of installing over 900,000 smart meters during the AMP 8 period (2025-2030). This initiative aims to reduce water leakage, improve water management, and support water conservation efforts by providing real-time data. The company has partnered with Arqiva to handle the sourcing, installation, and communication network management for the project.

In summary, the major benefits of smart metering will be:

- More efficient operation: with faster leak detection and repair; better fault finding; greater network visibility; enhanced supply/demand planning; and better capital investment/maintenance targeting
- Better customer service: providing customers with clear, detailed information on their water usage and consumption patterns, enabling them to adjust their behaviour to save water, energy and money
- Environmental protection: lower consumption and reduced leakage enable reduced abstraction; this in turn cuts carbon emissions from water treatment and distribution processes
- Improved water resilience: reduced danger of demand outstripping supply
- A platform for more frequent and better-quality engagement with United Utilities' customers on water efficiency offers, bespoke advice and tools for reducing consumption and bills – both water and energy – benefiting water and fuel poverty agendas.

These benefits will require the installation of new base station infrastructure to provide radio coverage across United Utilities' supply areas, including the development proposed at the application site.

## **Health and Safety Considerations**

Every installation on a site owned or managed by Cellnex will be compliant with international standards adopted by the UK Government. A certificate confirming compliance with the relevant ICNIRP guidelines on public exposure has been supplied with this application. The ICNIRP guidelines seek to protect against the well-known thermal effects of radio emissions and include a significant precautionary factor. These guidelines apply to all forms of electronic communications and mobile technology is one of the lowest powered of these.

National planning policy remains clear, provided an application is certified as ICNIRP compliant, local planning authorities should not seek to effectively set different guidelines through the refusal of planning permission.



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### **Electronic Communications Code Notification**

This letter and the enclosures also provide due notification, as may be required, under the relevant conditions of the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003, as amended. In particular, you are given notice of the intention to install the electronic communications apparatus described in more detail in the application documentation (including the scale drawings) and to be located as shown on the application plans. No fee is required for this separate statutory notification.

We trust everything is in order, but if you do require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Sam Wismayer

**On behalf of Arqiva Ltd**

### **Developer's Contact Details**

All correspondence relating to this application should be directed to the undersigned. However, in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, all correspondence to the developers, in the first instance, should be sent to:

Arqiva Ltd, Town Planning Team, Crawley Court, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 2QA

Email