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NEWS

Request to make phone masts public

We know where they are, Environment Minister says. Now Islanders should be told

By Anna Heuston

ahouston@jerseyeveningpost.com

JERSEY Telecom will be asked to make their list of mobile phone masts public.

Environment Minister Freddie Cohen says the company have now provided a list of the masts' locations to Planning and he intends to ask them whether it can be made available to Islanders.

Meanwhile, following the release of a report by Health and Social Services into mobile phone masts and health, the Senator has agreed that temporary planning permission be granted to Cable & Wireless to begin to establish their network. But this will only be for testing to be carried out before permanent permission is considered.

Senator Cohen said: 'Jersey Telecom have around 100 masts and have applied for consents for many. There was no health scrutiny process but the equipment available in the UK is all required to be below international limits.'

'Jersey Telecom have now provided a list of the locations to Planning. I will be asking them to

allow us to make this public and to confirm that each location has been checked to ensure that it is below international limits.'

He went on to say that he was in the process of issuing planning consents for parts of the Cable & Wireless network, but only so that tests could be carried out. 'Initial consent will be given for testing, and permanent consent will be given once we are satisfied that total emission levels at base station sites is below international limits.'

Investigation

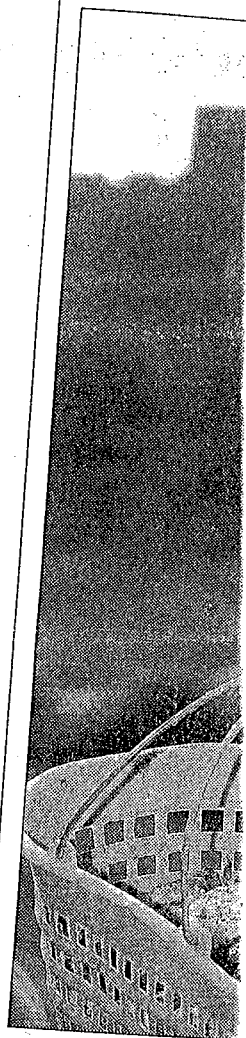
He said the company planned to put the bases at sites where the visual intrusion would be relatively low, but added that some proposed sites, including the Western Fire Station, would be subject to more investigation before permission would be granted. 'It appears that there is no substantive health risk

although we will take a very careful approach to contentious sites like the Western Fire Station,' he said.

The Health Protection report has been compiled by assistant director Stephen Smith and concludes that the States of Jersey should ensure that:

- All base stations are the subject of planning applications.
- There is improved consultation by the network operator with the community prior to the selection of a base station site.
- Emissions from base stations meet guidelines for public exposure, and the States seek to ensure that operators voluntarily agree to comply with levels lower than international guidelines.
- Measurement of actual levels of radiation from base stations is undertaken.
- Operators deliver, with the States, a database of information available to the public on radio base stations.
- There is a cross-industry agreement on the sharing of sites and masts for stations wherever possible.

Roy



Ewelina Micek at work

THE first of the outdoor before Easter to satisfy The start of the season over the past couple of Royal Potato (Marketir has been delayed, there The ground was well prepared the soil condition healthy

This never materialized - Why?

Questions for the base

FOCUS ON: Mobile networks

The phone masts could be shared

TEL: - 738911

● From Jane Simpson.

AS a complementary therapist specialising in vibrational (or 'electronic frequency') medicine, I have spent more than 20 years studying the effects of electronic fields on the body's electronic, or 'subtle', anatomy. I have also closely monitored the effects on my own health since I have had prolonged exposure to what feels and sounds like one of Jersey Telecom's mobile masts, and I have gone to lengthy measures to boost my own natural defences in order to cope with inevitable increasing exposure to disorganised electronic fields.

David Smith, of Cable and Wireless, says '...our standards are common across the world'. Well, worldwide standards vary enormously. Jersey has tended to follow the guidelines of the UK when it comes to mobile masts. Unfortunately, the UK's standards fall extremely short of what is acceptable in many other developed countries. In addition, while most guidelines advocate not siting mobile masts near schools, these same children can be metres away from a mast while in their own homes for more than half of each day.

I sympathise with Cable and Wireless's business concerns but would any businessman go out and purchase all the materials to build a house without first receiving signed planning permission?

As a self-confessed gadget freak, I am far from being a technophobe but I choose to use a plug-in telephone and broadband. Yes, I have a mobile phone but I limit its use and I would soon get used to being without it if I had to.

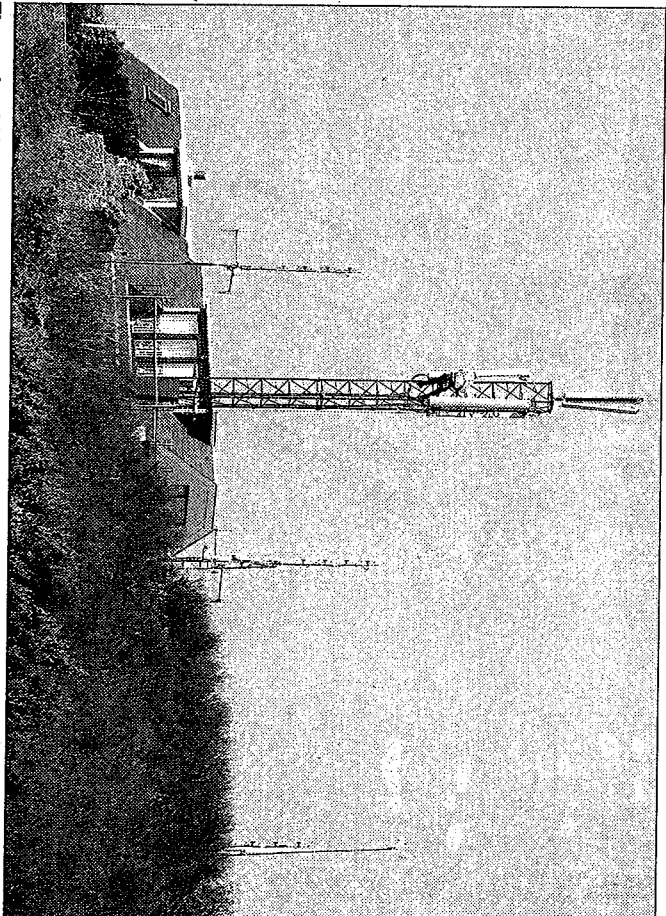
There will always be some beings who

tronic influences. I am a realist and it seems to me that our human electronic fields are going to have to adapt to survive the effects of the technological world. Maybe one day we will develop a way to transmit health-enhancing, organised electronic waves which can also carry communications.

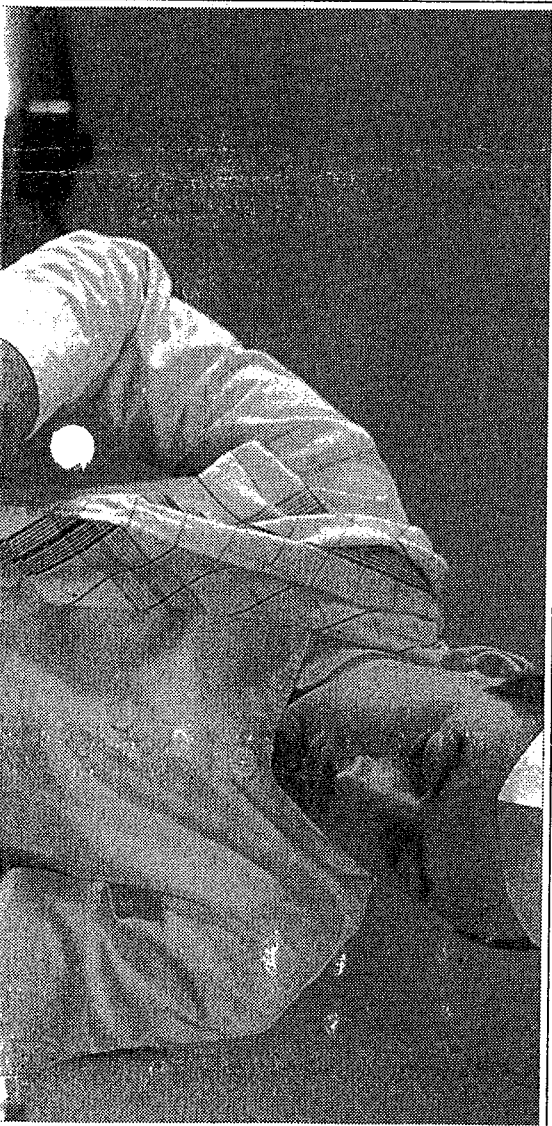
In the meantime, can we please compromise over the masts issue? Can we please stop erecting further masts in areas of the Island where coverage is already adequate? Can all telecommunication companies in the Island share their resources and update those resources to accommodate the latest technology? Furthermore, can Jersey Telecom review their existing masts and check that health implications have definitely been put before cost of location?

Just because there is no unequivocal proof that mobile phones cause cancer or kill people, it doesn't mean that they do not have a detrimental effect on health and well-being.

We should be able to make informed choices and, on that note, can we please have a map showing where all communications masts are sited in Jersey - especially as we are about to have at least one new mast erected for each and every one of the 45 square miles. Overkill? I hope not.



There should be a map of all the mobile phone masts in the Island



1 Harbour View, Rise du Port