



# Office of Utility Regulation

**Media Release**

## Mast Audit gives All Clear

A recent survey of emissions from radio mast sites in Guernsey has found that they all fall well within the highest international safety standards. The audit was carried out by OFCOM at the request of the Office of Utility Regulation (OUR) in September 2005; they surveyed 14 sites, most of which were suggested for testing by local parish constables.

“We commissioned this survey to make sure masts in the Bailiwick complied with the most stringent international safety standards (known as ICNIRP standards), which are used in most European countries, including the U.K” said Michael Byrne, Director of Regulation at the OUR. “It is reassuring to note that not only have all 14 sites surveyed met the required standard, they all reported emissions which were significantly below the recommended level.”

This survey follows a previous one commissioned by the OUR in 2004 and was intended as a ‘spot-check’ to make sure the emissions from radio masts were still well below safe levels. The current work was carried out for the OUR by OFCOM’s Radio Team which conducts more than 100 such tests each year throughout the UK.

“Clearly, as new masts are erected it is really important that regular spot-checks continue to be made to make sure emissions are well within safe levels” said Michael Byrne. “OFCOM has a huge amount of experience of such testing and we are grateful for their assistance. We have a good working relationship with OFCOM, and using their radio team for a project such as this is very cost-effective for us, since it would just be uneconomical for an organization as small as the OUR to own all the specialist equipment necessary”.

The full details of the audit on each of the 14 masts in the Bailiwick surveyed by OFCOM are available and Islanders can get a copy of them simply by contacting the OUR or by visiting the OFCOM website at [www.ofcom.org.uk/sitefinder/audit2005/](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/sitefinder/audit2005/).

**ENDS/ 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006**

## Information for the Editor

### List of Sites Audited

Name of site	Date Audited	Multiple of Times Below ICNIRP Limit
Airport Terminal	18/09/2005	9925
BBC Pleinmont	20/09/2005	5120
Beau Sejour Leisure Centre	17/09/2005	9467
Falcon Vinery	20/09/2005	13633
Fort George Radio Station	19/09/2005	82172
Fort Saumarez	19/09/2005	972052
Gervais Farm	20/09/2005	17457
Jamblin Reservoir	17/09/2005	9810
Les Hubits Farm	19/09/2005	14842
Marais Vinery	17/09/2005	18174
Regency L'Islet	17/09/2005	38729
St Martin's Hotel	19/09/2005	249831
St Peter's Exchange	18/09/2005	5383
Westwood Vinery	19/09/2005	7566

- **ICNIRP Standard**

All OUR licensees must comply with the stringent International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) standards that are also used in most European countries including the UK. ICNIRP is a non-governmental organisation, formally recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which evaluates scientific results from all over the world and produces guidelines recommending limits of exposure.

- **About the OUR**

The Office of Utility Regulation was established in 2001 to regulate the three utilities of post, telecommunications and electricity in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. The Office is headed up by Director General, John Curran and has four staff.

The role of the OUR is to protect the interests of Guernsey consumers and the economy. It does this by ensuring that customers receive the best in price, choice and quality services in the three regulated sectors, while at the same time ensuring that those sectors are vibrant and robust so that they can positively contribute to and underpin a successful Guernsey economy.

The OUR regulates telecommunications operators, Guernsey Electricity Ltd and Guernsey Post Ltd. Wherever possible, the OUR promotes the introduction of competition by ensuring that there is fair play and a level playing field between the operators. Where competition is not yet effective or where it is not feasible, the OUR regulates prices and quality of services to customers. More information is available from the OUR website [www.regutil.gg](http://www.regutil.gg), or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120.