

The MOA logo consists of the lowercase letters 'moa' in a white, sans-serif font, positioned inside a dark blue, teardrop-shaped graphic that points towards the top right.

moa

mobile
operators
association

responsible
network
development

Annual rollout plans – transparency for local authorities

Since 2001 the UK's mobile network operators – 3, O2, Orange, T-Mobile and Vodafone – have provided annually every local planning and national park authority in the UK with envisaged proposals for new base station sites for the following twelve months and details of their existing sites in the authority's area.

With more than 65 million mobile phones in use in the UK, there is a continuing demand for network upgrades and expansion so that customers can use their mobiles when and where they want. All mobile phone services require a network of base stations to transmit and receive the radio signals which enable them to work.

The right balance

The operators understand the importance of achieving the right balance between addressing environmental and other public concerns and the need to meet the ever-increasing customer demand for their services.

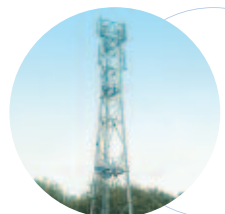
Engaging in dialogue and working closely with local and national park authorities and local communities before submitting planning applications for base stations is a key priority for the operators and their agents.

Sharing rollout plans

The distribution of the annual rollout plans gives an excellent opportunity for the operators to share information with local and national park authorities for the forthcoming year and for the local authorities to provide feedback and general advice to the operators to help guide their thinking and plans. Ideally the parties can work together to find an optimum solution.

Mobile phones cannot work without a network of base stations in places where people want to use them.

No less than 30 scientific reviews worldwide in the past five years have not found adverse health effects caused by mobile phone base stations operating within the international health and safety guidelines used in the UK.



The rollout plans are sent in the autumn of each year with an offer of a meeting to discuss the details in them. Such meetings allow for early dialogue with the operators as well as a valuable “look ahead” tool for the authorities. Operators are happy to meet jointly or singly with authorities depending on the preference of the authority concerned. The data provided on existing sites also enables authorities to annually update their mast registers if they have one.

Since 2005 the roll out plans for all operators have been sent out electronically from one source – the MOA – which makes it much easier for authorities to see the “big picture” for anticipated mobile network development in their area during the next year. Feedback from authorities in 2005 was very positive with 99% of authorities responding saying they were pleased the plans are provided electronically from one source and that the operators are prepared to meet jointly.

The sharing of annual rollout plans has been advocated as best practice and is encouraged by all UK governments. Local and national park authorities are encouraged to take a full and active part in the annual rollout plans process.

In the public domain

Once the rollout plans are sent out they are in the public domain and local people can request access to them from their local or national park authority. They can ask questions of the authority and provide useful advice or feedback which the authority can pass on to the operators. Ideally this should occur in advance of any application for planning permission being submitted, enabling the operators to take account of local views which can then assist them in determining the final location and design of a site.

Further information

For further information on the annual rollout plans process or for planners to be added to the mailing list please contact info@ukmoa.org

The Mobile Operators Association represents the interests of the UK’s five mobile phone network operators - 3, O2, Orange, T-Mobile and Vodafone - on radiofrequency health and associated planning issues.

For individual operator contact details see www.mobilemastinfo.com

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