

# Review of the Implementation of the Ten Commitments - Terms of Reference for Deloitte & Touche



## 1: Background

The FEI (Federation of the Electronics Industry) represents the five UK mobile phone operators, Hutchison 3G, Orange, O2, T-Mobile and Vodafone - on health and planning related matters.

In September 2001 the operators, under the auspices of the FEI launched the Ten Commitments to Best Siting Practice. The Ten Commitments have three main aims: to address concerns in the community about mobile phone masts, to balance this with the need for further mast development and to provide more support to a planning system not designed or intended to address possible health risks.

An important aspect of development of the operators' Ten Commitments was the need to ensure that all companies were successfully adopting the new procedures. This review of progress is an important part of any implementation process.

In August 2002, the FEI therefore, appointed Deloitte & Touche to conduct a Review of progress by the five UK mobile phone operators on implementation of the Ten Commitments.

## 2: Review of the Implementation of the Ten Commitments

### 2.1 Deloitte & Touche responsibilities

Deloitte & Touche have been engaged to:

- form an independent opinion on whether the operators have made demonstrable progress in implementing the Ten Commitments across the UK.
- provide a summary of progress for all Ten Commitments
- investigate the processes, controls and procedures the companies adopt in the siting of radio base stations, in particular the Acquisition Process – Commitments 1, 2, 7 and 10 (Refer to Annex 1) that deal with the Site Selection and Planning Model, developed to determine pre-application consultation when siting a radio base station, over and above that required under the planning regulations.

- review selected site files across the UK and interview selected Site Acquisition Agents, Local Planning Authorities, local and national community groups. These selections will be made by Deloitte and Touche.
- produce a report for the FEI which will contain findings and any recommendations for improvement.
- develop the minimum standards needed for any future assurance carried out within each operator.

This review is due to be completed by the end of January 2003.

Deloitte & Touche are not responsible for reporting on the effectiveness of the objectives of the Ten Commitments or any other aspect of the operators' businesses.

## 2.2 FEI and Operator responsibilities

The FEI and the Operators are together responsible for:

- the design and upkeep of the Ten Commitments, for assessing the adequacy of those Commitments for their purposes and for ensuring that their purposes are communicated to and understood by all stakeholders.

The Operators are individually responsible for:

- determining how they implement the Ten Commitments in their own organisations.
- monitoring and assessing compliance with the Commitments by their own organisations, and by agents that act for them.
- determining and implementing any action plans to achieve or improve upon compliance with the Commitments.

## **ANNEX 1**

The Ten Commitments are:

- develop, with other stakeholders, clear standards and procedures to deliver significantly improved consultation with local communities
- participate in obligatory pre-rollout and pre-application consultation with local planning authorities
- publish clear, transparent and accountable criteria and cross-industry agreement on site sharing, against which progress will be published regularly

- establish professional development workshops on technological developments within telecommunications for local authority officers and elected members
- deliver, with the Government, a database of information available to the public on radio base stations
- assess all radio base stations for international (ICNIRP) compliance for public exposure, and produce a programme for ICNIRP compliance for all radio base stations as recommended by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones
- provide, as part of planning applications for radio base stations, a certification of compliance with ICNIRP public exposure guidelines
- provide specific staff resources to respond to complaints and enquiries about base stations, within ten working days
- begin financially supporting the Government's independent scientific research programme on mobile communications health issues
- develop standard supporting documentation for all planning submissions whether full planning or prior approval