

ESN

Emergency Services Network – Programme Update

Programme Planning

At the November 2016 Programme Board we discussed a plan the Programme had been developing with our suppliers to ensure ESN was sufficiently and rigorously tested and trialled before user organisations begin transition. We introduced a new milestone called Service Ready when all functions and features, including service management, have been delivered, enabling the emergency services to begin Major Operational Trials.

The review is now concluded and the new plan shows Service Ready as April 2018. We are working with the emergency services senior users to agree the best approach for Major Operational Trials to prove functionality and end-to-end performance. In parallel the Programme will conduct 2 months of Verification to confirm that what was tested on the reference system has been delivered on the ground. On successful completion, the emergency services will be able to begin Transition to ESN in mid-2018.

Emergency services senior users are working with user organisations to review the new plan and its impact on the emergency services' preparations for Transition. They will report in the New Year.

As the National Audit Office (NAO) acknowledged in their recent report, ESN is inherently high risk and the timescale ambitious; we are leading the world when it comes to delivering the next generation public safety communications. This new plan reflects our commitment not to risk the critical communications required by the emergency services; we will not be taking any risks with public safety so Airwave will continue until the emergency services have completed Transition on to ESN.



Gordon Shipley

Programme Director

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HM Government



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