



Home Office

Law Enforcement Programmes Portfolio
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Dear Colleague

As you may be aware, a robust and dispassionate review of options for the future direction of the Emergency Services Network (ESN) has been undertaken within Government. A decision based on the evidence and conclusions in a review paper has been made, and the Home Office has today announced that the decision is to deliver ESN in an incremental way.

This decision will require independent verification which will be provided by a series of assurance reviews, including by the Major Project Review Group of HM Treasury. In addition, the Full Business Case will now have to be amended, and will be subject to a further governance and assurance review before the direction of travel can be endorsed. We expect this process to conclude by the New Year.

The first part of the commercial Heads of Terms (HoTs) negotiations with our major suppliers to enable ESN to be delivered in a new and incremental way, as well as extending the existing Airwave service, are also now complete. This means we can begin implementing the modern public safety communications capability Users need, as soon as it can be developed. The incremental approach will allow an element of choice around adoption of ESN products prior to full implementation and switch-off of Airwave.

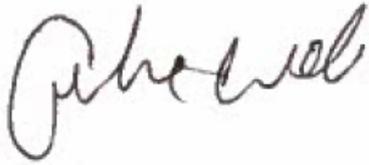
The first ESN products will appear soon to allow Users to start testing and using them. Further work will also start immediately to support the roll out of ESN including construction of mobile masts in remote locations, procuring the next phase of ESN infrastructure build with London Underground, and a project to verify the extent of 4G coverage in Britain.

Under the new plan, only once all emergency services are using every ESN product or service they need, and can safely operate without Airwave, can shutdown of the old service take place.

The confirmation from Government that ESN is the strategically correct replacement for the existing Airwave network allows the Programme to move to deliver ESN in a more collective, agile and customer focussed way.

I therefore look forward to working with you yet more closely in the future

Yours sincerely



Stephen Webb
Director, Law Enforcement Programmes



HM Government



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