

21 July 2023

Dear Mrs Mileham,

Thank you for your e-mail of 6 July to the Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP) in which you request a status update for the mast at EAS0201 Halse Farm, Halse Lane, Winsford Exmoor TA24 7JL. Given previous correspondence you were expecting the mast would go live in Q3 2023. You also request confirmation as to whether there is a decision by Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to provide commercial public service for the remote area.

Site EAS0201 Halse Farm is passive build complete and has regional electricity connected. There is an electricity meter installed and the site has been passed to the transmission supplier for the next phase.

The next phase will conclude the works to the mast, which will connect the site to the core network and activation for use by the emergency services. Given the complex work involved it is difficult to predict firm dates for the mast to go live. We are working closely with our suppliers to improve transmission delivery timescales; however, it is unfortunate that the provisional go live date for this site is now Q4 2023.

Whilst the Extended Area Service (EAS) programme is primarily for the emergency services, we understand the assets should be shared for the benefit of the community. Once the Halse Farm site is live, all MNOs will have the opportunity to provide a commercial service via the EAS infrastructure through the Building Digital UK's Shared Rural Network (SRN) programme.

I fully understand your disappointment in the delays but take this opportunity to reassure you that the programme is working at pace to provide connectivity at the Halse Farm location. I trust the information provided has been helpful.

Yours sincerely, James May

Head of Coverage Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme