



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

NHS:
MEL(1993) 29

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

NHS IN SCOTLAND - RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS

Summary

1. Discussions are to take place shortly between the Management Executive and the Radiocommunications Agency of the Department of Trade and Industry with a view to establishing a firm basis for regulating the future use of radio systems by the NHS in Scotland. To inform those discussions, comprehensive details of existing NHS radio systems are required.

Action

2. At Annexes A-D are questionnaires relating to paging, fixed links, private mobile radio and miscellaneous radio systems. A separate copy of the appropriate questionnaire should be completed for every radio system owned by Health Boards, the Common Services Agency or NHS Trusts. Details of services such as paging or cellular mobile radio provided to NHS users on a subscription basis by specialist operators are not required.

3. Questionnaires completed as far as possible, it being appreciated that some details may not be readily available, should be returned by 5 April 1993.

Background

4. Voice radio systems are used extensively by the Scottish Ambulance Service, others maintain contact with GPs and other staff working in the community, yet others are used for security or other purposes both on and between certain NHS sites. Most paging systems used by the NHS involve radio transmission, as do some alarm or other telemetry systems. The operation of all radio systems is governed by the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 and subsequent legislation. The allocation of radio frequencies for civil use in the United Kingdom is made and policed by the Radiocommunications Agency to enable all users to co-exist within the available spectrum with the least possible mutual interference.

5. Historically, NHS users of certain radio systems operating on particular frequencies required "letters of authority" from the Department

17 March 1993

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

General Manager, CSA

General Manager,
State Hospital

Chief Executives and
Chief Executive
Designate, NHS Trusts

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COMMON SERVICES AGENCY	
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of Trade and Industry and were thus exempted from licensing with its consequent need to furnish full details of equipment. Precisely which systems were covered by "letters of authority", and for what period or geographical extent was not always clear. However, since April 1991, when Section 60 of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 removed Crown immunity from NHS bodies, licensing has been a requirement for the legal use by the NHS of radio equipment.

6. Many NHS radio systems in Scotland have now been individually licensed, but some are known to have been overlooked. While the Radiocommunications Agency has allowed us a period of grace for full compliance, they have asked us to ensure that all NHS radio frequency usage is made known to them as soon as possible so that such frequencies are not inadvertently reallocated. They have also indicated that there may be scope for rationalising the number and type, and thus overall cost, of licences required by the NHS in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

h. Crank.

p.p. C J HICKINBOTHAM

PAGING SERVICE

1. LICENCE/LETTER OF AUTHORITY (IF HELD)

NUMBER :
HOLDERS NAME :
ORGANISATION :
ADDRESS :

POSTCODE :

2. CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

NAME :
APPOINTMENT :
ADDRESS :

POSTCODE :
TELEPHONE :

3. SERVICE NUMBER (Allocated by DTI/RA) :

4. SYSTEM TYPE :
(HF one way, VHF one way, UHF one way,
Local Comms two way or Induction Comms with
return speech)

5. ASSIGNED FREQUENCY (MHZ) :

6. BASE STATION
ADDRESS :

POSTCODE :
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE :
(2 letters, 6 figures)

7. TYPE APPROVAL (RTD) NUMBER :

8. ANTENNA HEIGHT :
(above ground level, in metres)

9. BASE POWER :
(actual power in Watts or,
for induction systems, field
strength in microvolts/metre)

6. IF SYSTEM EMPLOYS CONTINUOUS TONE CONTROLLED SYSTEM :
(CTCSS) specify frequency used for Tone Lock

7. <u>FIXED RADIO/BASE STATIONS</u>	STATION A	STATION B
ADDRESS :		
POSTCODE :		
NATIONAL GRID REF. : (2 letters, 6 figures)		
RADIO TYPE APPROVAL NO. :		
OUTPUT POWER IN WATTS :		
ANTENNA HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND :		
ACTUAL FREQUENCIES USED : (from list at question 5 above)		

(If more space required continue on a separate sheet)

8. VEHICLE MOUNTED RADIOS
TOTAL NUMBER USED :
RADIO TYPE APPROVAL NO. :
OUTPUT POWER IN WATTS :

Frequency Channelling (from list at Ques. 5)	Number So Channelled	Operating Area

(If more space required continue on separate sheet)

ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES. List any frequencies, other than those listed at Para 5 above, on which any sets can receive or transmit.

	Single Frequency Operation Or Base Transmit	In Two Frequency Operation Mobile Transmit	No. of Sets Capable
ZA			
ZB			
ZC			
ZD			
ZE			
ZF			

9. PORTABLE RADIOS

TOTAL NUMBER USED :

RADIO TYPE APPROVAL NO. :

OUTPUT POWER IN WATTS :

Frequency Channelling (from list at Ques. 5)	Number So Channelled	Operating Area

MISCELLANEOUS RADIO

1. LICENCE/LETTER OF AUTHORITY (IF HELD)

NUMBER :

HOLDERS NAME :

ORGANISATION :

ADDRESS :

POSTCODE :

2. CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

NAME :

APPOINTMENT :

ADDRESS :

POSTCODE :

TELEPHONE :

3. SERVICE NUMBER (Allocated by DTI/RA) :

4. LONG RANGE RADIO ALARMS

SITE ADDRESS :

POSTCODE :

NUMBER OF ALARM STATIONS ON SITE :

NUMBER OF ALARM STATIONS OFF SITE :

RADIO FREQUENCY USED :

5. HOSPITAL BROADCAST SYSTEMS

ADDRESS :

POSTCODE :

NATIONAL GRID REF. :

FREQUENCY USED :

OUTPUT POWER :

ANTENNA HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND :

6. TELEMETRY/TELECOMMAND/TELEAPPROACH RADIO

STATION LOCATION :

POSTCODE :

FREQUENCY(S) USED :