

FOI Reference Number: FOI/209/1920

Date: 04 October 2019

Request:

1. Is the Council intending to submit an application to the Rural Connected Communities Competition for rural 5G testbeds?
2. If the answer to the above is yes, has the Council undertaken, or does the Council plan to undertake risk assessments, equality impact assessments and s75 screenings for its application? Please provide copies of any documents relating to these screenings.
3. If the answer to q1 is yes, which rural communities will be included under the project scope? Please provide details of processes used to identify and select these communities, including details of any community consultation.
4. Does the Council have a 5G, IoT or Smart Communities strategy, or does the Council plan to develop one?
5. Does the Council have public liability or employer's liability insurance for harm caused by wireless radiation? If not, please specify why, and in particular whether this is because of an explicit exclusion in the Council's insurance policies.

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received 31 August 2019.

Please find below Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response in relation to your request.

1. Is the Council intending to submit an application to the Rural Connected Communities Competition for rural 5G testbeds?

The Council are currently exploring the RCC bid and may apply through the FFNI consortium

2. If the answer to the above is yes, has the Council undertaken, or does the Council plan to undertake risk assessments, equality impact assessments and s75 screenings for its application? Please provide copies of any documents relating to these screenings.

Local Councils have a limited role in this matter. The Council has not undertaken any risks assessments to date regarding 5g but has sought guidance regarding the roll out of 5g networks.

3. If the answer to q1 is yes, which rural communities will be included under the project scope? Please provide details of processes used to identify and select these communities, including details of any community consultation.

At the current time we have not identified suitable rural locations.

4. Does the Council have a 5G, IoT or Smart Communities strategy, or does the Council plan to develop one?

We do not have such a strategy but may develop one in the future.

5. Does the Council have public liability or employer's liability insurance for harm caused by wireless radiation? If not, please specify why, and in particular whether this is because of an explicit exclusion in the Council's insurance policies.

Our Employers and Public Liability wording is currently silent in respect of the matter in question. The query raised is a broad query so a definitive response as to whether our policy would operate or not isn't currently possible, as naturally it would depend on the individual circumstances surrounding any event which may give rise to a claim. We can confirm that the policy provides cover in respect of the Policyholders legal liability subject to the terms conditions and exceptions of the policy and subject to negligence being established

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/209/1920 in any future communications. /

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.