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Aberdeenshire Council

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Dear Sir / Madam

ARQIVA

SMART METERING

You may be aware of the Government's commitment to roll out smart electricity and gas meters to all homes and small businesses across Great Britain by 2020. The smart meter initiative is a key part of the government's programme to cut greenhouse gas emissions, decarbonise the economy and support the creation of new green jobs and technologies.

Smart meters will give consumers real time information on their energy consumption to help them control energy use, save money and reduce emissions. With greater visibility and understanding of their energy consumption, they will be able make more informed choices about which appliances to use and when. For example, a consumer seeing the power consumption associated with a tumble dryer might be encouraged to use a washing line instead or, perhaps, avoid operating the machine during peak periods of demand when electricity tariffs are higher. Government guidance on the benefits of smart meters and the smart metering system can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/smart-meters-how-they-work

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-smart-metering-system-leaflet

To be "smart", these meters will become continuously connected to a new resilient wireless communications network, in order to enable information to be sent and received 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If we are to achieve the greatest possible changes in consumer behaviours, this communications connection will need to be robust reaching very nearly all energy meter locations, whether rural or urban.

Some energy suppliers are already offering smart meters using their own limited systems and technologies. However, in order to meet the Government's requirement for all energy companies to install around 53 million gas and electricity meters at 30 million domestic and smaller non-domestic properties, a new national smart metering 'Wide Area Network' will be required. This radio communications

network will form part of the UK's Critical National Infrastructure and is one of the 40 projects in the UK's National Infrastructure Plan. Its deployment and timely delivery is particularly important to achieving a sustainable economy and meeting a key UK Government priority.

Arqiva as preferred Communication Service Provider

In September 2013 the Department of Energy & Climate Change awarded the contract to deliver this radio communication network to the two Communication Service Providers who have established track records in delivering and running critical national infrastructure and networks. Arqiva will deploy and manage the smart metering radio communication network in Scotland and northern England whilst Telefonica will provide the network to the remainder of Great Britain. The timescale for the delivery of the network is 2020.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/smart-metering-implementation-programme-information-leaflet

The link below to the Arqiva website provides more details of our smart metering communications technology which is based around long range radio using the 412 - 414 MHz radio spectrum we have been licensed to use.

http://www.arqiva.com/smart-metering/

As you might be familiar, Arqiva owns and operates the whole of the terrestrial television and majority of the radio networks across the UK. Furthermore, we own or manage many more sites that are used or capable of being used for electronic communications purposes than any other operator.

Arqiva is, therefore, ideally placed to deploy the new radio network for smart meter communications based around our existing electronic communications sites or high structures suitable for such use. This is obviously consistent with long standing government policy to minimise visual impact by avoiding the unnecessary proliferation of radio mast sites.

In some areas, however, for a variety of reasons new installations will be required. For example: the nearest existing sites are too far from certain properties; the signal from the nearest site may be adversely attenuated or affect by topography or natural or man-made features such as trees or high buildings; or the fabric of the properties is such that the signals will be unable to penetrate them, for example, because they are old thick walled buildings. Without some new installations a number of homes and businesses would not therefore be able to benefit from smart meters.

Requirements in your Local Authority area

Within your Local Authority area we envisage utilising the existing communication sites set out in the accompanying schedule and network rollout plan. This is likely to entail the installation of additional antennas and a small ground based equipment cabinet at each site and seen within the context of other existing operational communications equipment.

However we have also identified the likely need for new installations at other locations, which are also set out in the accompanying schedule. These are likely to be shared with other operators where practicable or entail new structures placed on highway land of similar scale and appearance to existing street furniture or new apparatus on buildings or tall structures. In some circumstances we might require more substantial infrastructure requirements to overcome more difficult coverage or terrain issues and other technical and operational constraints.

To bring forward the solution with the least landscape impact, we will follow established policy and Best Practice on sensitive siting and design, but reflecting the especial technical and operational considerations that apply to deploying the smart metering radio communications network.

We must stress that as deployment plans develop it is likely that there may be some changes to the indicated locations.

As an electronic communications operator, Arqiva benefits from the permitted development rights set out under Class 67 of Part 20 of Schedule 1 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992, as amended. Hence in some cases, the installation of apparatus will not trigger a specific requirement for planning permission.

In some cases the smart metering radio apparatus to be installed will not materially affect the external appearance of an existing structure or building and is likely to fall outside the planning system as it will not fall within the definition of development set out under the relevant Planning Acts. Insofar as this test is subjective, in some cases any perceptible change would still amount to *de minimis* and so remain outside the requirement for any specific approval.

The Next Steps

At this stage, if you have any comments to make on the network plan and schedule of sites then please send them to our Stakeholder Inbox:

smart.stakeholders@arqiva.com

Arqiva shall be instructing either Daly International or Harlequin, its site search, planning and acquisition consultants to find potential siting alternatives for new smart metering communication installations.

This exercise will be conducted in accordance with relevant planning policy and best practice. In due course our consultants shall be in direct contact to engage in prior consultation on siting and appearance in relation to the specific sites, before making any planning submissions. This is envisaged to take place over the next few months.

We take this opportunity to re-emphasise that we consider a co-operative approach to be the best way that the Smart Metering radio communications network can be delivered in your area, whilst minimising the potential impacts associated with the new wireless infrastructure.

As such, we ask that you respond to engagement requests by our consultants promptly and positively (and outside any formal pre-application process that might apply) and dedicate sufficient resources to be able to handle this priority Government project expeditiously.

We need your help to deliver this project successfully and meet the Government's commitment to reducing energy waste, sustainability and meeting climate change obligations.

If you need any more information or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Arqiva through our dedicated email Inbox.

Yours faithfully

ARQIVA LTD

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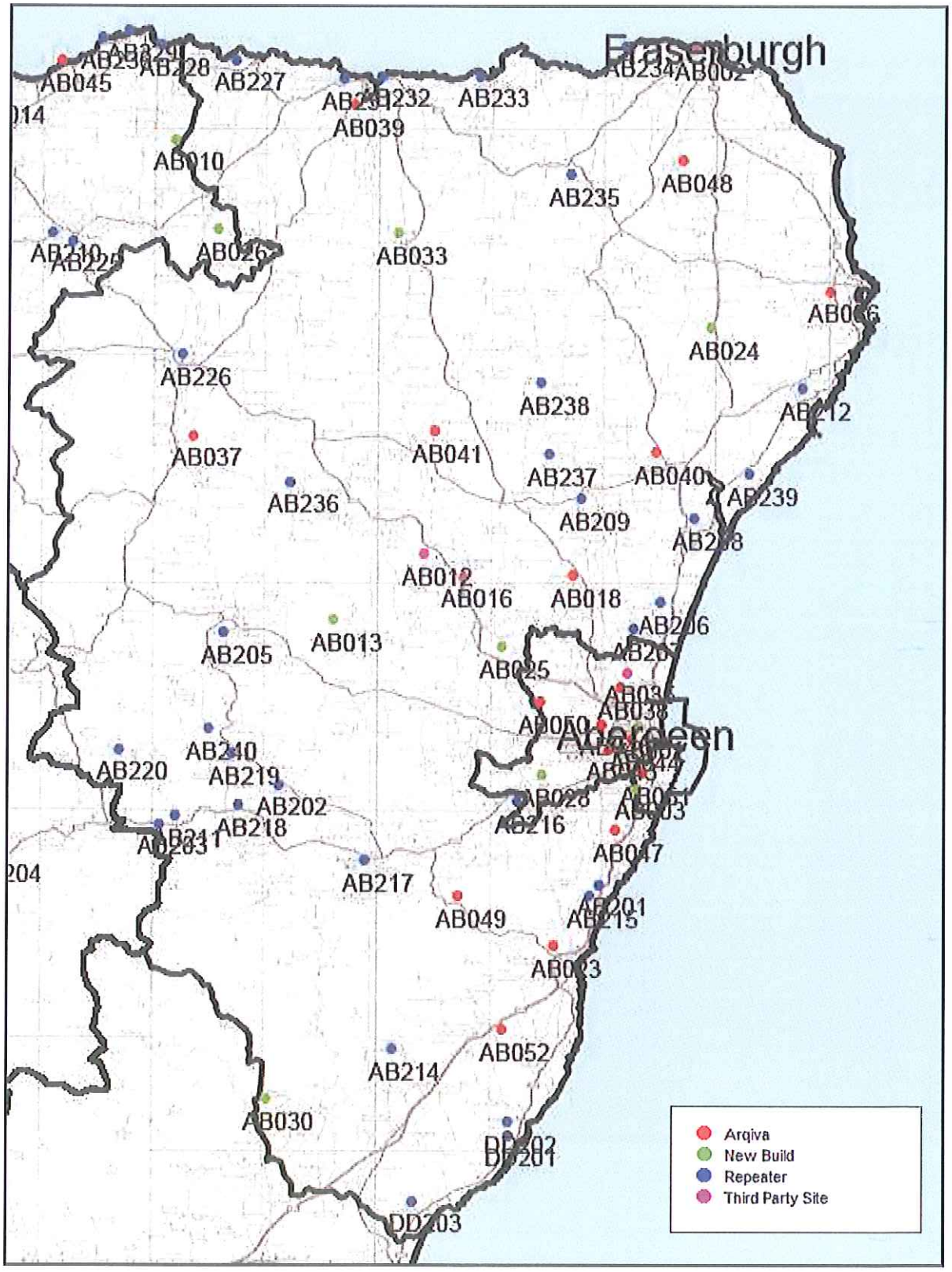
Smart Metering Network – Aberdeenshire Council

Nominal Locations as of 10 December 2013



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Schedule

Nominal Site ID	Postcode	Eastings	Northings	High Level Site Type	Site Type	Local Planning Authority
AB002	AB43 9JQ	399285	866745	Third Party	Third Party Rooftop or Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB023	AB39 3QA	386800	787600	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB040	AB41 8BN	395819	831119	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB048	AB43 7AX	398137	856910	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB036	AB42 2DP	411200	845300	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB012	AB51 5RX	375155	822137	Third Party	Third Party Rooftop or Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB016	AB51 0LU	378683	820217	Third Party	Third Party Rooftop or Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB033	AB53 4AW	372759	850454	New Build	New Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB041	AB51 8TX	376051	832995	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB025	AB21 0SA	382084	813947	New Build	New Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB049	AB31 6DX	378267	791975	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB030	AB30 1DT	361291	774123	New Build	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB047	AB1 4RB	392300	797800	Arqiva	New Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB013	AB51 7JJ	367170	816367	New Build	New Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB039	AB45 3LJ	368870	861756	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB018	AB21 0QD	388450	820220	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB024	AB42 5AX	400593	842141	New Build	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB037	AB54 4RP	354700	832600	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB052	AB39 2XU	382190	780240	Arqiva	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB010	AB45 2XJ	352969	858695	New Build	Arqiva Tower	Aberdeenshire
AB201		390876	793032	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB226		353700	839712	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB217		370026	795157	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB231		367899	864086	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB232		371204	864330	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB205		357456	815233	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB212		408754	836715	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB206		396245	817927	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB236		363302	828522	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
DD202		382734	772012	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB227		358376	865763	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB203		351787	798327	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB209		389143	827015	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB202		362388	801837	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB208		399213	825266	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB234		392995	866985	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB211		353149	799072	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB235		388133	855612	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB237		386273	830959	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB220		348161	804947	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
DD203		374298	765058	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB233		379996	864326	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB207		393866	815591	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB238		385524	837214	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB219		358168	804518	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
DD201		382778	770852	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB214		372442	778527	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB218		358813	799996	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB215		390005	792012	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB239		404063	829228	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire
AB240		356133	806757	Repeater	Repeater	Aberdeenshire

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Notes

'**Arqiva**' refers to an 'Arqiva Tower', 'Arqiva Rooftop', 'Arqiva Third Party Tower', 'Arqiva Third Party Rooftop' and 'New Arqiva Rooftop' which means the use of an existing tower, mast or building owned, managed, or controlled by Arqiva that may or may not have electronic communications apparatus installed.

'**Third Party Site**' means either a 'Third Party Tower' which will involve the use of an existing electronic communications tower or mast not in Arqiva's ownership, **OR** a 'Third Party Rooftop', which will involve the use of an existing building not in Arqiva's ownership which may or may not currently support electronic communications apparatus.

'**New Build**' means either a 'New Rooftop' which will involve the use of an existing building without electronic communications apparatus installed, **OR** a 'New Tower' which means the requirement for a new tower or mast that will be required to provide network coverage.

'**Repeater**' indicates locations where small-scale electronic communications apparatus will be attached to an existing tower, mast or building.

Where the **site type** is described as an 'Arqiva Tower', 'Arqiva Rooftop', 'Arqiva Third Party Tower', 'Arqiva Third Party Rooftop', 'Third Party Rooftop' or 'Third Party Tower', a potentially suitable site has already been identified from an initial search of Arqiva's owned and managed land and property portfolio, and other locations owned or controlled by other parties. This includes many established electronic communications sites and represents a sequential approach to site selection that accords with national and local planning policy objectives of sharing existing electronic communications towers, masts and sites. If these prove to be unsuitable or unviable locations at a later date, for example if planning permission cannot be obtained for them or they cannot meet operational requirements, then a search for a different site will begin based upon the Eastings and Northings co-ordinates provided and within a defined area reflecting operational requirements.

Where the **site type** is described as a 'New Tower' or 'New Rooftop', a specific site has yet to be identified as there are no known existing electronic communications site available or suitable for use and a search will be undertaken to identify the most suitable location for the development. A number of options will be assessed as part of this process. The Eastings and Northings co-ordinates identify the centre point of the 'nominal' and, therefore, the starting point from which the search for a suitable site will begin within a defined area reflecting operational requirements.