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Emergency Services Mobile
Communications Programme
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13th March 2019

Dear Gareth,

Greater London Authority (GLA) Oversight Meeting – 17 October 2018

Many thanks for your letter of 29 October, and sincere apologies for our late response; it appears that your letter got lost in our system and was got to me recently.

Since October, much progress has been made on the Programme in delivering the revised approach. The first mast built by the Home Office has gone live as part of the Extended Area Service, the procurement of the air-to-ground device has been launched, and the testing of the 4G coverage using the Assure product has commenced. Furthermore, Kodiak version 9.0 is now being demonstrated to Users in the United Kingdom over WIFI, with the application expected to be launched over 4G later this month. The first product with push-to-talk capability, Direct 1.0, remains on track to be delivered later this year. We are continuing to work actively with Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police to join forces and make the delivery of ESN a success.

As I mentioned during the session, this revised delivery approach has necessitated a refresh of the full business case (FBC), the governance of which is ongoing. Until that process concludes I'm not able to provide firm details on the financial aspects of the programme. That said, it is very clear that the Net Present Value (NPV) for continuing with the programme remains extremely positive, the current programme has a positive NPV of over £2 billion compared with that of continuing with Airwave indefinitely based on a whole life cost over the period FY2015/16 to FY2036/37.

The first year of saving for ESN is expected to be in 2023, once Airwave is shutdown, with the payback period starting in financial year 2028/29. This payback period and the NPV is predicated as much on the User Organisations decisions at a local level around expenditure relating to the 'non-core' programme costs as it is to the 'core' programme

delivery costs. As a point of note, the non-core costs have been provided by the User Organisations themselves and have been reflected in the updated business case.

Regarding the establishment of a body to co-ordinate the roll out of ESN across London, we are keen to see as much coordination as possible and very much welcome the GLA's interest in this area. You may want to discuss with the 'The Pan-London ESMCP Group (PLEG),' which is a forum, chaired by John Anthony (john.anthony@london-fire.gov.uk) from the London Fire Brigade, bringing together representatives of all the emergency services in London monthly. Senior representatives from the Programme provide updates to the Group, to inform and facilitate their management of plans for adoption and deployment of ESN.

I am confident that ESN will be a superior system at a more affordable price than Airwave. Alongside the recent extension of the Airwave contract, we have been renegotiating with our primary suppliers EE and Motorola to ensure the programme is on a sound footing to succeed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Bryan Clark
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