

POSOL GUIDELINES FOR TELEVISION SUPPLIES

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman's letter of 21st August 2003 explained the POSOL Board's policy for ensuring that all householders can have proper access to the full range of television broadcasts, both now and in the future, while, at the same time, maintaining the attractive appearance of Port Solent.

The following guidelines provide the framework within which this can be achieved with full benefit for the individual owner and with minimum visual impact to fellow neighbours and friends.

In drawing up these guidelines we have consulted with Portsmouth City Council, Sky Homes, NTL, Television aerial manufacturing companies, Television aerial installation companies, Guidelines issued by The Office of The Deputy Prime Minister, and European Community decisions.

All these have influenced POSOL's policy and it is worth summarising the major points.

HOUSEHOLDERS' RIGHTS

European Community documents are particularly complex and long winded.

However the **EC Commission June 2001** "Communication on Application of the General Principles of Free Movement of Goods and Services - Concerning the Use of Satellite Dishes" includes the following statements which apply "in all normal situations": -

- (i) Every individual who wishes to have access to a satellite dish must have that opportunity.
- (ii) It would be contrary to Community Law to establish authorisation procedures that were not easily accessible, quick, and of affordable cost to the individual.
- (iii) Architectural and urban planning concerns can be efficiently addressed through measures that aim to minimise the visual impact of satellite dishes, without infringing the right to satellite reception of the individuals concerned, and without forcing them to pay excessive fees.
- (iv) The choice of the means of reception and of the possible services available via satellite belongs to the individual concerned,
- (v) The principles defined in this document equally apply to other receiving and transmitting antennas.
- (vi) This Communication will *be* modified in the light of technological progress and other relevant changes.

Here in Britain, **The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister**, has issued "Installation of Satellite Television Dishes: Householder's Planning Guide".

This includes a Checklist for Selection, Purchase and Installation, from which parts relevant to our own situation here at Port Solent are: -

- (i) The householder needs POSOL's consent.
(A simple form to enable authorisation of this is attached. Completion and return of this form, prior to installing an aerial, will safeguard both householder and POSOL.)
- (ii) Reputable and authorised suppliers and installers are to be used.
- (iii) The dish is to be no larger than the minimum required for good reception.
- (iv) The dish is to be sited in an inconspicuous place, whenever possible not in front of the house.
- (v) The colour of dish and cabling should blend in with the chosen background.

Guidelines are given for minimising the impact, in terms of colour and location.

It is also made clear that "The Consequence of Poor Siting" is that the householder may be asked to re-site the dish.

In other words, individual house-owners can insist that POSOL allow them access to satellite (and other) television supplies.

In turn, POSOL can insist that all practical steps are taken to ensure that individual aerial installations are as discreet as possible.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Since the original Port Solent Television Covenant was drawn up in 1988 there have been many changes throughout the telecommunications industry.

These changes will continue for the foreseeable future, whether it be: -
free-to-view v pay-to-view; terrestrial v, satellite v cable supply; analogue v digital signal;
television receiver v computer v Internet; etc; etc.

In delivering these changes at Port Solent, the following points are relevant: -

(i) Installation Companies:

By using installers who are familiar with Port Solent and its inherent variations in quality of television signal reception, we can expect good results and maintain the spirit of this initiative.

One such company, of which we have had good experience, is: •

Southern Aerials and Satellites, of Hayling Island - tel: 023 9236 3665 - contact Brian Molyneux

For more detailed information contact our Managing Agents

Southern Aerials will install both satellite dishes and conventional terrestrial TV aerials.

We have had detailed discussions with Brian Molyneux. Southern Aerials are fully familiar with our guidelines and, being a local company, they can provide quick response to requests.

Householders should satisfy themselves that their chosen installer will comply with these guidelines.

(ii) Aerials and Cables:

Home satellite dishes are now significantly smaller and less obtrusive than was the case in 1988.

Satellite dishes have to be installed externally, but a **45cm** diameter dish is all that is needed for satellite reception throughout this area of the country.

Conventional TV aerials can usually be installed in the loft, with outside location only to be considered where absolutely necessary or no loft is available.

All external aerials and cables must be positioned as discreetly as is practical, depending on signal strength at individual locations. Common sense positioning and concealment of both aerials and cables can greatly reduce visual impact to neighbours without compromising the quality of reception.

(ii) **POSOL Aerials:**

For those householders unable to get access to NTL cable supply, even when they would like it - (for example, at the far end of Coverack Way) - POSOL have provided a suitable loft aerial, where required, installed by Southern Aerials.

POSOL has also offered to provide a loft aerial where a house has not been connected to NTL.

These offers still stand.

POSOL will not provide new aerials where a householder has simply decided to change an established NTL supply.

Internal cabling remains the responsibility of the individual householder.

(iii) **Satellite Dishes:**

Householders unable, or not wishing, to be supplied by NTL now have the option of installing a satellite dish, in accordance with these guidelines.

(iv) **Conventional Terrestrial TV Aerials:**

Householders wanting additional flexibility of basic or digital free-to-view supply throughout their house can install an internal loft aerial.

This standard-type aerial must face south. In a very few cases it is not practical to install an efficient internal aerial. In such cases an external aerial may be considered.

(Normally this is a lower elevation house without a loft, and with the water-tank space facing north.)

POSOL is carrying out its own test work to source suitable "more discreet" external aerials, a subject which has been neglected by the industry.

(v) **TV / Telephone:**

When contemplating removing an existing NTL supply, it is worth remembering that the monthly cost of the basic NTL combined TV/ 'Phone connection is comparable with that of free TV/ separate BT 'Phone.

In the event of a householder disregarding these guidelines, POSOL will take appropriate steps to safeguard the interests of the majority, and to maintain standards throughout Port Solent.

These guidelines will be updated and amended in the light of experience and technical change. Suggestions for improvement are welcome.