

Central Saint Giles – Impact on TV reception

This file note describes the results of the television reception study carried out post construction of the Central Saint Giles development. It accompanies the full written report 9708-RL-01 by MHT consultants, which should be read in conjunction with this note.

Introduction

An electromagnetic field expert subconsultant was employed to survey the television reception strength in the areas deemed likely to be affected by the Central Saint Giles development. The post construction survey was carried out using specialist equipment with a mobile antenna of 4 metres height.

Results

The survey report demonstrates that the development at Central Saint Giles has caused reduced television signal compared to the pre construction survey in three localised areas:

1. Immediately adjacent to the site, the residents of 231 Shaftesbury Avenue reported drastically reduced television signal. This has been addressed by the provision of an upgraded communal terrestrial aerial installed by the developer and no further problems have been reported since. This is position Z in the report.
2. To the north of the site, a section of Great Russell Street (position A in the report) has been observed to have a reduced television signal compared to pre construction.
3. To the north of the site, a section of Montague Place (position B in the report) has been observed to have a reduced television signal compared to pre construction.

To date, no complaints have been received by the developer relating to television signal in either location A or B. It is surmised that the surveyed reduction in signal level has not resulted in an appreciable reduction to the picture quality received by residents. This may be because the mobile antenna is of a fixed height, often lower than the surrounding buildings and their aerials at the test position. Residents' aerials may therefore receive a better signal than that surveyed.

It should be noted that the best indicator of difficulties with television reception is not always the magnitude of the signal received at any one position; moreover picture quality is a function of both the signal and the reception equipment in use. As such, without visiting every potential receiver in a given location, it is not possible to state conclusively whether the signals received offer adequate television reception to every receiver.

Mitigation

The developer is keen to mitigate any reception problems caused by the development in a timely manner. As with 231 Shaftesbury Avenue, the developer proposes to follow up any complaints received from residents in positions A and B and will arrange for either upgraded terrestrial aerials or Freesat installation as appropriate, for a period ending 1st May 2010.