

MEMORANDUM

From W D Kelly

T.T.E. II

Bridgend

Telephone

Extension

To P. Pinel

T.T.E. I

Bridgend

Your reference

Our reference

Date 26th November, 1984

Reference Damage to Eglywsillian Radio Site on night Saturday 24/11/1984.

Saturday
19.15Hrs

Duty "On-Call" team for South Wales Police Eastern area first notified of communications problems in Pontypridd area at approx. 19.15Hrs. Mr G Harris and Mr L Denton attended to site (after obtaining suitable vehicle from Bridgend Depot.) where they found that the following User Services had been disrupted by action of vandals:-

1. Force wide S.W.P. Ch. 1 + onward/return links to Heol Gerrig site.
2. S.W.P. Ch. 2 (Cardiff area)
3. Force wide S.W.P. Ch. 4 + onward/return links to Heol Gerrig site.
4. Mid Glam Fire Ch. + onward/return links to Heol Gerrig site.
5. Home Office Directorate Ch.
6. Ambulance Service Ch.
7. M.o.D. and G.C.N. Systems

Both aerial Towers had been subject to attack and damage had taken the form of cutting through the Aerial Feeders, believed by an Axe. At the base of the Rx Mast the majority of the feeders were damaged by cutting through with the remaining few intact Feeders suffering cuts which had not penetrated all the way through the cable. The Feeders to all Aerial systems on the transmitter Mast had been severed in the ducting below uncovered section with further damage to the Transmit Mast Feeders at its base.

Saturday
22.00Hrs

Bridgend Depot T.T.E. I Mr P. Pinel was informed of the above and a second "on-call" team for West Area plus Fire Services was activated together with 2 Riggers and a further T.E.T. and second T.T.E. I, Mr L. Elliott with the R.W.E., Mr R Hodgkinson being informed.

Emergency stores of UR67 Feeder and Aerials for use to rig temporary systems if required plus associated aerial plugs/sockets etc. obtained from stores. S.W.P. also requested to supply emergency portable generator and lighting for use at base of masts together with uniformed escort for staff working at site.

Mr G. Harris T.T.E. II / Mr L. Denton T.M. dispatched to Heol Gerrig site from their location at Pontypridd to place Mid Glam. Fire Scheme onto site auto "talkthro" operation.

Sunday
00.30Hrs

Mr. W.D. Kelly T.T.E. II / C. Bennett T.E.T. / V. Jones T.E.T. / K. Chatham AE Rig. / N. Ellis AE Rig. Arrived at site at Eglywsillian with Senior S.W.P. Comms. Staff.

Damage found as already stated. Checks of systems on Rx Mast found that although damaged by cuts, the following Rx Aerials were still operational:-

- 1 S.W.P. L/Rx from H.Q. Ch. 1.
- 2 S.W.P. L/Rx from H.Q. Ch. 4.
- 3 S.W.P. L/Rx from Cardiff Ch. 2.
- 4 S.W.P. M/Rx Ch. 2 Cardiff
- 5 RW (Home Office Frequency) M/Rx

Weather conditions on arrival were intermittent rain showers, strong winds and cold temperatures which were such that even Cartridge Soldering Iron was only partially successful.

Priorities established as obtaining at least one Police Force-wide Channel restored and Mid Glamorgan Fire restored with an initial aim of site auto "talkthrough" operation. S.W.P. Ch. 4 being left until other schemes were operational as this was a second Force-wide frequency. Mr V. Jones dispatched from Eglywsillian site to Heol Gerrig to assist Mr Harris / L. Denton with difficulties on that site with Mid Glamorgan Fire Scheme.

Repairs to Rx Mast as first priority organised with surface cuts covered with weatherproof tape. Mr N. Ellis AE Rig. Also carried out a check of both Masts by climbing these to check for possible further damage to feeders or aerial systems, an undertaking which he did without a request or knowledge of Mr. Kelly, but which did greatly assist in the overall assessment of damage to be repaired. S.W.P. M/Rx Ch. 1 repaired by a length of UR67 Feeder from base of receive mast to Aerial location patch panel in equipment room. M.G. Fire M/Rx transferred on to RW (Home Office Channel) M/Rx position on patch panel for temporary use until later repairs to normal aerial system.

Sunday
02.00Hrs

Folded dipole aerial rigged to roof of equipment building with a tail made up to patch panel and connected to M.G. Fire M/Tx location, this system then put on to hill top site auto "talkthrough" and force informed of partial restored system which they could control from their fixed mobile at H.Q. for the Pontypridd area.

Work then transferred to the Tx Mast with tails being made up for M/Tx's as priority to obtain site auto "t/t" initially. S.W.P. Ch. 1 first restored and then S.W.P. Ch. 2 (at Cardiff) restored with site auto "T/T" on both schemes.

At this point attention was then transferred to the return Link Tx's for S.W.P. Ch.2, Ch. 1 as this would then enable control of schemes by their respective operations rooms as far as Eglywsillian Site, but not the onward site of Heol Gerrig where applicable. S.W.P. Ch. 2 Link Tx restored first and this gave system back fully to Cardiff area as normal at approx. 05.00Hrs.

Mr. Harris / Mr Jones /Mr Denton arrived back on site Eglywsillian at approx. 05.30Hrs after restoring M.G. Fire auto "T/T" at Heol Gerrig site + checks of S.W.P. Ch. 1, Ch. 4 on auto "T/T" at that site after failure of links from Eglywsillian.

S.W.P. Ch. 1 was restored with a go/return to H.Q. Bridgend at approx. 06.00Hrs, this giving partial control of this Channel to the Central/North area for South Wales Police.

All supplies of UR67 had been exhausted at this time (2 x full drums) and before returning to Depot, further tests were made of receive mast aerials to check full extent of those remaining what repairs would still be required. All Staff left Eglywsillian Site approx. 07.00Hrs for further stores of cable and a meal break at Bridgend Depot.

Sunday
08.30Hrs

T.T.E.1's Mr. Pinel and Mr. Elliott on site at Bridgend for up-date of current situation by Mr Kelly and a further issue of aerial feeder. No UR67 available from Bridgend Stores and 75ohm co-ax used instead.

Sunday
09.15Hrs

Mr Hodgkinson on site at Bridgend and briefed of situation and plans for repair of remaining damage.

Sunday
10.00Hrs

Staff back on site at Eglywsillian (less Mr. L. Denton) to continue repairs with priorities to all onward links to Heol Gerrig Site for S.W.P. Ch. 1, Ch. 4, M.G. Fire, and return Link Rx's for S.W.P. Ch. 1, Ch. 4, M.G. Fire, and return Link Tx to M.G. Fire Headquarters at Lanaley Hall and also RW (Home Office) M/Tx + Ch. 4 M/Tx.

Tails were made up for all these schemes and connected to appropriate locations and patch panel. Work was then again transferred to receive mast to complete tails for the return Link Rx's for S.W.P. Ch.1,Ch. 4, M.G. Fire Links from Heol Gerrig, and for 1 No. U/S go link Rx Mid Glam. Fire from Lanaley Hall H.Q.

Sunday
12.30Hrs

Mr. Pinel and Mr Elliott visited site to examine in day light the extent of damage caused and confer with Staff on site.

With restoration of each L/Rx from Heol Gerrig (S.W.P. Ch. 1 first) so schemes were restored to normal operation with full control and coverage. Mid Glam. Fire restored next and this system then handed back to force for normal operation.

Sunday
14.00Hrs

Mr G Harris departed site – had been on continuous duty since initial call at 19.15Hrs on Saturday.

Work on Ch. 4 S.W.P. aerials completed + M.G. Fire normal M/Rx aerial system – Mid Glam. Fire restored to normal location on aerial patch panel and RW scheme restored to operation. S.W.P. Ch. 4 aerials completed by approx. 15.30Hrs but equipment failure to station control panel on channel 4 meant scheme not operational as such. Unable to clear this equipment failure on this channel on site and so departed Eglywsillian site approx. 16.45Hrs with appropriate schemes / aerial systems as listed:-

- 1 Force-wide S.W.P. Ch. 1 – fully restored to operation.
- 2 Cardiff area S.W.P. Ch. 2 – fully restored to operation.
- 3 Force-wide Mid Glam. Fire Ch. Fully restored to operation.
- 4 RW (Home Office) Ch. Fully restored to operation.
- 5 Force-wide S.W.P. Ch.4 – AE systems repaired – scheme equipment failure not repairable on site but force operational on Ch. 1 force-wide thus meeting minimum priorities first laid down on arrival.

Not repaired at time of departure were Ambulance Service Ch.'s, M.o.D. and G.C.N. systems. Access not available to M.o.D. or Ambulance Service equipment locations and therefore unable to assist in restoration of these services.

Sunday
17.30Hrs

Staff returned to Bridgend Depot and Mr. Kelly informed Mr. P. Pinel at approx. 18.00Hrs of details as stated previously and all staff involved stood down from emergency situation.

W. D. Kelly, T.T.E. II.