



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

CMS 278950/DC

Clive Selley (Openreach)
Stewart Baseley (Home Builders Federation)

4 February 2016

Dear Clive and Stewart

DELIVERING SUPERFAST CONNECTIVITY IN NEW BUILD HOMES

Thank you for your letter setting out a landmark industry-led approach to ensure that the majority of new builds homes are enabled with a superfast broadband connection. The Government welcomes this initiative in the strongest terms, and would like to thank both Openreach and the Home Builders Federation (HBF) for raising the bar to meet the digital needs of new home owners.

Widespread superfast broadband connectivity, defined as speeds of 24Mbps or above, is a prerequisite for a successful digital economy. That is why the Government is committed to building on the UK's digital success, and ensuring that consumers have access to world class connectivity. Our manifesto pledge is to ensure "superfast broadband coverage to 95% of the UK by the end of 2017". We want to meet and maintain this commitment – for new builds as well as existing houses.

The Government has an ambition to build 1 million new homes over the course of this Parliament. Homes built today will be used by both today's new home owners, as well as future generations. This industry-led push to make superfast, or indeed ultrafast, broadband speeds available by default in new homes represents a very important step in meeting the UK's digital needs.

The Government hopes that this agreement will set a new competitive standard for both developers and telecoms providers across the whole of the new homes market, and welcomes steps taken by the industry to ensure new home buyers are aware of what connectivity will be available before they decide to buy property.

We do, however, recognise that there will be a limited number of new premises that are located in very hard to reach areas, and that smaller developers in particular, may need to consider a range of suppliers offering different technologies to achieve superfast connectivity. The Government will work with the industry and provide guidance to set out the range of connectivity options available to smaller developers.

The Government is pleased to see that Openreach and HBF have committed to review progress on new build superfast connectivity, and refine and develop the offer to ensure high uptake. The Government will review the success of this initiative in 2017, to ensure that the ambitions in our manifesto are being met and that further intervention is not required.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for coming together to make real progress on this issue, and wish you good luck for a successful launch of the scheme.



Ed Vaizey
Minister of State for Culture
and the Digital Economy



Brandon Lewis
Minister of State