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Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy Consultation

Thank you for choosing to respond to this consultation. This online survey should be completed with referral to the information accompanying the questions in the Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy consultation document published on the gov.uk website.

This consultation will close at midnight on Wednesday 1 October 2014.

Disclosure of responses

Please read this section carefully before you start responding to this consultation.

The Government intends to publish responses received from organisation to this consultation on www.gov.uk following closure of the consultation period.

However, all information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory code of practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, among other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the department.

The department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

. Are you content for the Government to publish your response?

- (•) Yes, I would like the Government to publish my response.
- ( ) No, I do not want the Government to publish my response.

. Please explain why you regard the information you have provided in response to this consultation as confidential.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

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Organisational / individual details

Before proceeding to the consultation questions, please provide contact details and some information about you or your organisation. This is optional but will help with our analysis of your response.

DCMS will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

. Name

Bertie Hipkin

. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

. Organisation name

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

. Contact email address

bertie.hipkin@rocketmail.com

. Contact address

18 Fairways Lakes Village
Caldecott Hall
Fritton
Gt Yarmouth

. Please select which category best describes you or your organisation

Consumer/user

. If other, please give details.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

. **Introduction: The role of Government**

Q1a.
Is this an appropriate role for Government?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

Q1bi.
Are there other high level principles the Government might adopt?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

Q1bii.
If yes, please give details.

Q1c.
What resources do you consider the Government should aim to deploy to effectively manage its role?

. **Section 1: Existing and planned communications infrastructure and the current infrastructure supply market**

Q2. What potential opportunities are there for Government to leverage its combined buying power to support policy objectives?

Q3a. If migration to IPV6 is required, are there any barriers to that migration?

- ○ I think there are significant barriers.
- ◉ I think there are insignificant barriers.
- ○ I do not think there are any barriers.
- ○ I do not think IPV6 is required.

Q3b. How might these barriers be addressed?

Quality Information to public about updating/upgrading of router/modem hardware

. **Section 2: What might future demand look like?**

Q4a. Is an ongoing disparity of provision of broadband services across the country inevitable?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Q4b. If so, should this be addressed?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Q4c. How might this be done most effectively?

Investment in less economically viable locations. i.e. Rural UK

Q5. How symmetrical will digital communications networks have to be in the future? Will this differ across user types? What implications does this have for fixed and wireless broadband provision?

Q6. Which countries should be our benchmarks on communications infrastructure to ensure that business remains in the UK and continues to invest?

Sweden.

Q7a. What metrics do you think should or will become relevant in comparing network performance in different countries?

Speed per cost.

Q7b. What metrics should most appropriately be used as the basis to set objectives for Government policy?

Speed per cost.

. **Section 3: Scenario 1**

Q8a. Do you agree with this scenario or elements within it?

- ○ Strongly Disagree
- ○ Disagree
- ○ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ◉ Agree
- ○ Strongly Agree

Q8b. Where do you agree/disagree? If you disagree what alternative scenario do you envisage?

Agree that the usage and reliance on the internet will increase. Perhaps more so than envisaged by this scenario.
I feel strongly that the target set of 24mbps 'super fast' needs to be increased year on year in order to remain a useful benchmark inline with the increasing usage of the internet.

Q9. What are your views on the technology commentary underpinning this scenario? To what extent might the infrastructure/technology discussed evolve irrespective of demand and how far it be a direct consequence of the level of demand?

The ability to be 'connected' everywhere no matter how remote will be an evolved demand as we become used to an increased level of coverage on major travel arteries.
We will want to be connected to the internet at all times, in all places.

Q10a. Are there technologies not identified here that you think will have a major impact on the performance of existing infrastructure or the deployment of additional infrastructure in the next 10-15 years?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Q10b. If yes, please give details.

Femtocells to increase 3G and 4G coverage using traditional fibre networks.

Expansion of existing dark fibre networks to provide more competition to the currently monopolised BT consumer fibre market.

Q11a. Are there wider environmental issues not reflected in the scenario e.g. the price of availability of energy that will affect any of the scenarios?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Q11b. In what way might these wider environmental issues affect any of the scenarios?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q12a. How likely is any unforeseen disruption to this scenario?

- ○ Very Unlikely
- ○ Unlikely
- ○ Undecided
- ◉ Likely
- ○ Very Likely

Q12b. In what area might it occur?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

. **Section 3: Scenario 2**

Q13a. Do you agree with this scenario or elements within it?

- ○ Strongly Disagree
- ○ Disagree
- ○ Neither Agree nor Disagree

- [x] Agree
- [ ] Strongly Agree

Q13b. Where do you agree/disagree? If you disagree what alternative scenario do you envisage?

Q14. What are your views on the technology commentary underpinning this scenario? To what extent might the infrastructure/technology discussed evolve irrespective of demand and how far it be a direct consequence of the level of demand?

Q15a. Are there technologies not identified here that you think will have a major impact on the performance of existing infrastructure or the deployment of additional infrastructure in the next 10-15 years?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Q15b. If yes, please give details.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q16a. Are there wider environmental issues not reflected in the scenario e.g. the price of availability of energy that will affect any of the scenarios?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Q16b. In what way might these wider environmental issues affect any of the scenarios?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q17a. How likely is any unforeseen disruption to this scenario?

- Very Unlikely
- Unlikely
- Undecided
- Likely
- Very Likely

Q17b. In what area might it occur?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

. **Section 3: Scenario 3**

Q18a. Do you agree with this scenario or elements within it?

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

Q18b. Where do you agree/disagree? If you disagree what alternative scenario do you envisage?

Q19. What are your views on the technology commentary underpinning this scenario? To what extent might the infrastructure/technology discussed evolve irrespective of demand and how far it be a direct

consequence of the level of demand?

Q20a. Are there technologies not identified here that you think will have a major impact on the performance of existing infrastructure or the deployment of additional infrastructure in the next 10-15 years?

- Yes
- No

Q20b. If yes, please give details.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q21a. Are there wider environmental issues not reflected in the scenario e.g. the price of availability of energy that will affect any of the scenarios?

- Yes
- No

Q21b. In what way might these wider environmental issues affect any of the scenarios?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q22a. How likely is any unforeseen disruption to this scenario?

- Very Unlikely
- Unlikely
- Undecided
- Likely
- Very Likely

Q22b. In what area might it occur?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

. **Section 3: General questions on the three scenarios**

Q23a. Are there factors, for example technical or unrelated to the regulatory framework, that could create bottlenecks and delay future infrastructure deployment in the UK in this timeframe, that would result in demand not being met or the UK not being seen as a leading digital nation?

- (•) Yes
- ( ) No

Q23b. Please give details.

FTTH/FTTP

The ability to quickly and affordably rollout FTTH/FTTP to businesses and residents across the coming years is yet to be realised.

Also, the level or competition available is too small

Q24a. Do you expect commercial providers to deliver future infrastructure and meet demand on a purely commercial basis, or is some form of public intervention likely?

- ( ) Commercial providers will meet demand on a purely commercial basis.
- (•) Some form of public intervention is likely.

Q24b. If public intervention is likely how might that work with the commercial provision of infrastructure? What form might that intervention take?

In rural areas. Leaving cities and other densely populated areas for the commercial providers.

Q25. Which current or draft legislation might prevent or facilitate the emergence of any of the scenarios?

Q26a. Do you have views on which scenario (or combination of scenarios) is most likely and should influence the development of future strategy?

- [x] Scenario 1
- [ ] Scenario 2
- [ ] Scenario 3
- [ ] None

Q26b. Please give your reasoning for why you think this scenario or combination of scenarios is most likely.

. **Section 4: Competition and regulation**

Q27. How might efficient investment in communications infrastructure be supported, for example by changes in the regulatory framework?

Regulating of BT, and forcing it to 100% transparent and encourage competition through free or low cost use of it's ducts, poles, and fibre network.

Q28a. Are any further measures necessary to incentivise the rollout of future mobile infrastructure in currently underserved areas?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Q28b. Please give details.

Financial incentive

Reduction in redtape to build further fibre networks

Q29a. Is there a role for a revised USO or USC to ensure that minimum consumer demand requirements are met and to reduce the potential for a new digital divide? What might this look like?

- [ ] I think there is a role for a revised USO
- [ ] I think there is a role for a revised USC
- [ ] I think there is a role for both a revised USC and a revised USO
- [ ] I do not think a revised USO or USC are needed

Q29b. What might this look like?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q30. In terms of supporting future innovation and long-term investment in infrastructure, what areas of broadcasting regulation may have served its purpose by 2025 -2030 (or indeed earlier). What future technical developments may also have longer term implications for regulation and wider public policy?

AM/FM frequencies being redundant, and better served as mobile 3G & 4G frequencies

Q31a. Are there changes to the EU Framework that the UK might seek to encourage more competition in UK markets?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Q31b. Please give details.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q32. Should Government seek changes to the European Framework which put more reliance on competition law?

- ○ Strongly Disagree
- ○ Disagree
- ○ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ○ Agree
- ◉ Strongly Agree

Q32b. How might this be done?

Higher penalties for anti-competitive behaviour

Q33. In what ways can you see competition driving technological change in the UK in the future?

Reducing the cost of services to business and consumers, as well as furthering the quality and benefits offered

Q34. How can the regulatory framework keep up to date with new business models and changes in technology?

regular debates

Q35. Are there any changes to legislation other than the Communications Act that would incentivise the provision of communications infrastructure?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q35b. What might these changes be?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q36a. Would there be benefits to investment from a focus on broadband only services? Are there any barriers to the emergence and adoption of broadband only services, whilst still providing necessary access to emergency services?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Q36b. Please give details.

Providing consumers with only what they want and need at a reasonable price.

Q36c. Are there any barriers to the emergence and adoption of broadband only services, whilst still providing necessary access to emergency services?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Q36d. Please give details.

high line rental fees

. **Section 5: Facilitating and encouraging investment**

Q37. How might copper access networks evolve over time alongside other access technologies? Is there a role for policymakers in helping manage any transition from copper to other access networks?

Free connectivity for low income households

Q38a.
Views are sought on whether there are any additional actions the Government should consider to ensure that the provision of all areas of the UK's digital communications infrastructure remains competitive in order to ensure that the UK can take full advantage of growth opportunities in the Digital Age.

Make at least basic internet connectivity free to those who cannot afford it themselves, and to homes with low incomes. Subsidise high speed internet connectivity for businesses, and businesses run from home

Q38b.

Aside from legislation and adapting the regulatory framework in the broad sense which other actions should the Government take to encourage investment in communications infrastructure?

opening up the market

Q38c. Views are sought on whether there are any additional actions the Government should consider to ensure that potential investment in the provision of digital communications infrastructure offers a suitable risk and reward profile to ensure that they can be financed by the private sector.

Q39a.
Views are sought on the case for the UK to invest to gain ‘early mover advantage’.

FTTH is the only long term solution and investment into this should be made as soon as possible to gain advantage over competitor nations as well as longevity of services

Q39b. Views are sought on what areas in particular the UK should aim to see investment in.

rural and country areas.

Q39c.
Are there any actions not covered elsewhere in this report that the government should consider to ensure digital communications infrastructure is in place before it is needed and such that it helps generate need?

Q40. How might we maximise the current R&D and innovation UK landscape to help take advantage of the opportunities provided by future technologies? What needs to be done by Government and its agencies, and industry to tackle any gaps?

Start providing even faster 'super fast' internet services to homes and businesses. Speeds in excess of 1000MBPS (1GBPS) are needed to help business efficiently communicate and develop they're products and services on a global scale

Q41. In which future communications technologies that you consider the UK has, or could achieve, an international leadership position?

FTTH/FTTP

Shared mobile infrastructure

Q42. What more might government and industry do to exploit future technologies, associated new applications and emerging business models?

Start investing in the latest technologies to get ahead of the competition. Not just keeping up

Q43. What role might local bodies have in facilitating the future delivery of digital communications infrastructure?

Spotting problem areas and blackspots which require more investment and detailed attention

Q44. How can councils maximise the digital communications infrastructure in their local area to support their work on economic regeneration?

Help businesses run from home by providing faster internet access as soon as possible

. **Further relevant information not covered by the consultation questions.**

. Please provide details of information you feel is relevant to the development of the Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy and not already covered by the consultation questions.

Location Data

Location: (51.5, -0.1300048828125)

Source: GeoIP Estimation