

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.

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

simonfj

. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

☐ Yes

☒ No

. Organisation name

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

. Contact email address

simonfj@cols.com.au

. Contact address

. Please select which category best describes you or your organisation

Academia/research

. 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.

Citizen Centric.

It may seem an unrelated principle to have in an infrastructure inquiry, But we have yet to see the idea of each citizen being issued with a my.gov.uk account. one that may be used to log-on to the PSN. ie the network of networks called the PSN (and janet), which is to be shared by citizens, inside and outside of an org.gov.uk. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>
Free access to (a level of) all services.gov.uk

Q1c.

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

All digital initiatives must follow this principle.

. 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?

Reduced interconnect fees.
Standardisation of tools and procedures.
Learning by doing. e.g. using more engagement tools.
e.g. compare this inquiry's approach (to an inquiry) to this one. <http://www.nhscitizen.org.uk/how-it-works/development-and-vision/>
or this one. <http://www.parliament.uk/business/commons/the-speaker/speakers-commission-on-digital-democracy/>

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?

. 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?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q4c. How might this be done most effectively?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

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?

UPand down will need t be balanced 50/50

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

None. That's the point. We are watching the National Public space catch up with ICT of Global Corporations.
One can learn globally from any end of the world, so geography is not important here.
We are "sharing" an Global infrastructure, not "delivering" an National education.
And content is more important than speed in an interactive world.

Mind you, the Netherlands has an attractive institutional culture.

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

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

. 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?

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?

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.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

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
- ☐ 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.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

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?

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?

- ☐ 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.

We're watching a change from networks being built around big National org's "delivery" patterns.
Now it's being built around Global, and Local groups and their "sharing" patterns.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups>

. Section 4: Competition and regulation

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

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q28b. Please give details.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

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?

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?

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.

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?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

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

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

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.

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.

. 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?

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.

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?

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'.

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

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?

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

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

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

I think local councils must "own the customer/citizen".
That's they should issue, share and maintain a citizen's account.
e.g. <https://mydex.org/blog/2013/11/29/the-role-of-the-individual-in-digital-by-default-public-services/>

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

The talk at the moment is, "now we have gov.uk, should we have one domain for all councils?"
No. We should have one site for both central, and local, governments. But the councils provide the IDA.

. 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.

