

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

Neil Fairbrother

. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

☐ Yes

☒ No

. Organisation name

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

. Contact email address

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. 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.

HM Gov created the conditions for a competitive telecoms industry. I believe that as fibre optic broadband (I mean REAL fibre optic broadband, not the pretend copper based stuff BT and Virgin deliver) is so important to our competitive position globally, and they the incumbents have demonstrated an absolute unwillingness to replace their copper wires (or coax cable in the case of Virgin) that the time is right for Government to intervene and create an open access fibre to the home (FTTH) infrastructure.

Q1c.

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

I don't understand the question

. 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?

You would be buying the necessary infrastructure to support the 64million or so inhabitants of the UK.

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?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

. 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?

100% symmetrical and 1000Mbps in both directions - 1Gbps in both directions. This is the starting point and with FTTH feasible to every house in the UK as light through fibre doesn't (noticeably) degrade with distance, unlike electrical signals through copper. The implications are that you need optical fibres to terminate at the premises, not in street furniture miles away. For wireless it means real 4G roll out and not the pretend 4G that is really LTE that the network operators are currently deploying.

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

Netherlands. Scandinavia.

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

Price per Mbps.

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

Number of homes attached to an optical fibre terminating device

. 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?

Linear TV will decline as bandwidth increases
Flexible working legislation dictates that ore people will work from home. To be effective as a home worker you need to be able to collaborate and to collaborate you need to use collaboration tool and this means ad hoc HD multiparty video conferencing along with ambient video to simulate th e office environment. You need to eliminate distance and this can't be done with copper wires. 4K video will swamp copper wires. We years and years away from having 4G - what we have is LTE. 5G doesn't even exist apart from in people's imagination. IoT will grow, backhaul is needed. Minimum of 24Mbps refers to download speed only based on BT's copper wires - it's not good enough.

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?

With bandwidth, just as with computing power, it really is a question of build it and they will come. If you deliver optical fibres to the home, this same optical fibres carry dozens of gigabits per second in the network - 1000Mbps symmetrical is just the starting point. By swapping out the CPE, speeds can be increased to 10000Mbs (10Gbps) - we can't even imagine what you can do with that bandwidth. Now try doing that over copper wires.

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.

BT are pushing hard the G.Fast standard, to DLSAM on a stick as it's known elsewhere. This will be a disaster, it's a complete dead end and won't achieve the desired results. Don't be hoodwinked by this approach.

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?

Please note the WIFI doesn't connect you to the internet - it only connects to a local device and thence to the internet. Please also note that wifi is now available at 1000Mbps (1Gbps) , so backhaul from there, whether in the home, school classroom or office, needs to be optical fibre based.

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?

Stop referring to 5G - we are decades away from achieving rollout of 4G.

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?

WiFi is fixed. Voice traffic will be multi-device although traditional fixed telephones are and will decrease in usage. Satellite has no place in delivering broadband - too expensive, too narrowband and too much latency.

Create a USO for 1000Mbps on optical fibres. Simple.

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?

5G might be written in the time frame of this scenario. It won't be rolled out. We might have finished proper 4G by then. 4g standard = 1000Mbps to a stationary handset. So that's cellular technology at 1000Mbps, WIFI at 1000Mbps and broadband at a few Mbps... which is the odd one out?

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.

BT and Virgin (the two main protagonists) not investing in real fibre optic broadband and continuing to perpetrate the fraud of delivering what they call fibre optic broadband but over copper.

FFTC and GFAST DLSAM on a stick both reduce competition in the local loop - there is nowhere for other service providers to deploy their kit, so they have to sell BT's wholesale service. So where's the competition in the local loop?

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?

It's very simple.

Buy openreach. The new publicly owned Openreach rolls out optical fibre infrastructure on an open access basis, open to all service providers including BT - just like network rail/railtrack operate the tracks and service providers operate the trains It's the same model.

It's very simple.

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

Lack of understanding of the real issues on behalf of the government. Ed Vaisey refused to talk to Peter Cochrane about broadband on national TV - really?? It's not hard or difficult. get involved, if you don't understand some basic technology - laws of physics - you'll be condemning the country to scrapping by on the Victorian technology of copper.

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.

I dream, hope and pray for a real fibre optic future, but I'm not optimistic.

. Section 4: Competition and regulation

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

As described - create USO for 1000Mbps on optical fibres. Nationalise Openreach (after all it is supposed to be totally separate from BT, right?) and get them to roll out the infrastructure on an open access basis - kind of like a super large scale version of CityFibre.

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Q28b. Please give details.

Vodafone and the other network operators need to invert their business plan and go rural first.

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?

As described previously - nationalise Openreach, they have a USO to deliver 1000Mbps on optical fibres to every home in the UK. Open access netwrk, all service providers get access. Very simple.

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?

I'm not really interested in this - other than to keep the internet open.

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?

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?

Competition always drives change, but stifled competition stifles change, which is what's happening with UK broadband.

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

It can't, probably.

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.

The only reason I have a telephone is because I have to pay for it whether I use it or not, so I may as well have it (Virgin broadband). All my voice comms is either mobile or via Skype or Lync. I'd much prefer to pay less and have just a data line on optical fibre. Voice is now data. Finally.

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.

The business models of the ISPs - what a disaster area. By giving away internet access they completely devalued the market so now can't charge enough for it. Good grief.

. 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?

Rip out the copper and replace with fibre Copper has no place in our networks in this country in the 21st century. It's dead. The copper based manufacturers are desperate to continue their income, hence we have this ridiculous GFAST DLSAM On a stick proposal from BT which isn't worthy of even a third world country.

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.

The only way you'll achieve it is to mandate it - USO it - use a nationalised Openreach to deliver it - foreign owned BT won't do it - why would they want a foreign country to there's being more competitive??

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?

Insist that BT and Virgin and other service providers stop breaking the trade descriptions act by referring to their copper broadband services as fibre optic broadband!! No other industry would get away with such a deception, so why should telecoms? It's an outrage.

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.

I would have thought it was obvious that the private sector has no appetite to invest in UK telecoms infrastructure, other than LTE and that's only in some parts of the country. All the while we have the laws of physics that we have in this universe, we'll need to get rid of copper wires and replace with optical fibres. It's very simple.

Q39a.

Views are sought on the case for the UK to invest to gain 'early mover advantage'.

:D hahahahahaha! Early mover advantage? I believe Peter Cochrane delivered the business case to Mrs Thatcher for optical fibre broadband. There is an increasingly long list of countries that are really delivering real fibre optic broadband to the home - we're too late for an early mover advantage. :D hahahah Oh my, I haven't laughed at such a thing for a long time. What a complete misunderstanding of where we are.

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

Fibre to the home, and fibre to the home. Forget railways, they are the wrong network technology for the wrong century.

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?

Deliver optical fibre with symmetrical 1000Mbps service to every household in the UK. That's all you need to do.

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

Fibre optic broadband to the home where the optical fibres terminate at the home, not miles away in a but of street furniture.

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

Once the basic optical fibres have been deployed, it's simple to upgrade to 10Gbps to the home.

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

None.

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

Interesting to see what towns such as York are doing with CityFibre - real fibre optic broadband to the home.

. 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.

Read this blog; <https://neil-fairbrother.squarespace.com/blog/2013/7/1/gfast-a-high-speed-cul-de-sac>

Location Data

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