



**SKY SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION
ON THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN ECONOMIC REGULATORS
DATED 1 DECEMBER 2014**

1. Sky welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Government's consultation on the collaboration between economic regulators.
2. We support cooperation between regulators and agree with the consultation that this could lead to better outcomes for business, consumers and the economy. Sky also welcomes the creation of the UK Regulators' Network (UKRN) in place of the Joint Regulators' Group to create a more structured and formal cooperation between regulators.
3. Sky considers that real benefits can be realised from cooperation between regulators. In particular, it will allow regulators to coordinate on cross-sector issues and share knowledge and best practice. This will help to improve the consistency and effectiveness of economic regulation, and drive improvements for the consumer.
4. Sky's preferred option for supporting and encouraging cooperation would be for government to monitor the progress of the UKRN and review its effectiveness in 2015 (option 1). The UK has developed a framework of economic regulation that is independent of government and the UK competition regime is already highly regarded by international standards. The Government has previously noted that the UK regime is recognised for its clarity of analysis and decision-making, technical competence and political independence. The Government should not seek to be deterministic or prescriptive about cooperation between economic regulators, which could undermine the current system of regulation and its attributes.
5. The Government's own Principles of Economic Regulation reaffirm the importance of independent economic regulation and government intervention, either through the provision of guidance or the introduction of a statutory duty (options 2 and 3) on the cooperation of regulators, could undermine the independence of both the UKRN and the individual regulators in the application of their sector-specific statutory duties.
6. Specific guidance or statutory measures that are developed to ensure cooperation between economic regulators could become inappropriate as certain sectors are subject to unforeseen and rapid changes. The UKRN has its own objectives, regulators have taken additional steps to cement their commitment to joint working, and the UKRN has now published its initial work programme. These steps provide the right framework that can be applied to embed joint working between economic regulators as individual sectors develop.