



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Shared Outcomes Fund 5G Testbed and Trials Programme

Fibre in Water: Improving Access to Advanced Broadband and Mobile Services via Drinking Water Mains

Application Guidance

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Overview

Background

The Fibre in Water: Improving Access to Advanced Broadband and Mobile Services via Drinking Water Mains (FiW) project is to pilot and facilitate delivery of advanced broadband and mobile services via drinking water mains. This will help to align policy, regulation and commercial interests across five Government departments, multiple agencies as well as the private sector in the water and telecoms industries.

The project will look to test barriers in regulations, approvals and licensing at national, regional and local levels and reduce time, cost, disruption and carbon costs associated with delivering gigabit capable digital services and mobile coverage. The project will also look to demonstrate how this vital infrastructure (water and telecoms) can be delivered together, while delivering savings to customers. This will both support economic development in some of the UK's hardest to reach communities, and simultaneously enable the modernisation of the water industry, including solving the challenge it faces from the removal of the copper public switched telephone network (PSTN) between 2021 and 2025.

The project will also enable the water industry to radically reduce the current 20% clean water leakage and resulting carbon emissions, passing on benefits to consumers through lower bills. This is part of a wider industry effort as well as Ofwat which has a 50% reduction target on leakage.

Deployment challenges for essential utilities like water and telecoms are complex, and are tightly regulated as both are key pillars of the UK's Critical National Infrastructure (CNI). There are significant synergies between critical infrastructures that could be exploited if the deployment challenges can be overcome.

While some of the prior technical barriers to delivering FiW appear resolvable, barriers to adoption remain in regulation and coordination. Working collaboratively between departments, regulators and agencies as well as the two industries is essential for this project to succeed.

This competition aims to find a suitable consortium of partners to deliver feasibility studies and technical pilot(s), as well as represent the interests and challenges faced by their industries.

Objectives of the Pilot

- Execute a Feasibility Study to de-risk and inform the detailed scope, costs and benefits of the pilot implementation. Sign-off of this study will form a gate for progression with the rest of the Pilot.
- Deploy a FiW pilot solution in the UK at sufficient scale to explore the technical, security, operational, regulatory and commercial challenges and benefits to all stakeholders and to give confidence that the solution could be scaled nationally.
- Support DCMS in building a community or ecosystem around the pilot that will ensure wide adoption of FiW, sharing key learning in the form of case study, technical reports and other project outputs.
- Collaborate with DCMS, DEFRA and their partners to inform and test regulatory, commercial, operational and cultural barriers to widespread adoption of FiW

Competition Timeline and Events

There will be opportunities to learn more about the competition and discuss with potential collaboration partners at a series of direct engagement events:

Briefing Events	Date
Launch Event	10th August
Matchmaking Event	10th August

For this competition the application window is open for 8 weeks and the timeline is:

Milestones	Date
Competition launch	9th August 2021
Applications deadline (8 weeks)	4th October 2021
Shortlisted applicants notified	Mid October 2021
Interviews with shortlisted applicants	Late October 2021
Successful applicant notified	November 2021
Grant claim period	January 2022 - 31 March 2024

We aim to finalise grant fund agreements between 6 weeks after the successful applicant has been notified.

Who can apply?

This competition is open to applications from consortium with two or more members with funding available for activity taking place in the UK.

How to apply

Please read the Competition Guidance, complete the Application Form and the Finance Forms provided and submit your documents to the following email address: 5genquiries@dcms.gov.uk. You will receive an email acknowledgement of your registration.

Funding

There is up to **£4 million of funding** available from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) in this competition. Applications of up to £4 million will be considered for individual projects. DCMS may opt to award one or multiple grants from the fund.

Competition Guidance

1. Programme and policy context

Accelerating broadband and mobile rollout is a major Government priority to level up and secure the Union. Whilst over £5.5bn investment is committed, made up for the £5bn [Gigabit Programme](#), the £500m [Shared Rural Network](#) and the £200m [5G Testbeds and Trials Programme](#), targets to connect many remote communities are still proving hard to hit. Novel options to complement existing interventions to reduce delivery time and costs are needed.

The UK water industry faces major challenges from water leakage. A total of around 3bn litres are lost daily, amounting to 20% of water treated. Ofwat has introduced significant fines penalising companies that are not meeting leakage reduction targets, but progress remains slow. The water industry also faces withdrawal of the Public switched telephone network (PSTN) and Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) by 2025 - these networks connect most of the infrastructure for monitoring and control over water assets, requiring alternative solutions. The UK water industry is also in need of transforming to a digital platform that would provide for next generation water networks and facilitate benefit monitoring of water leakage and asset security.

This project will trial FiW technology that could solve both the telecoms and water industry challenges by using water mains to deploy broadband in remote locations.

Combining utility networks for more efficient delivery is not new - Scottish and Southern Electric are currently working in London to run fibre through sewers, but this is not viable in rural areas. This project's novelty is in using water mains in rural settings where the pipelines are largely congruent with required broadband networks. The 2016 Access to Infrastructure regulations encourage sharing infrastructure for broadband delivery, but hurdles to adoption remain significant.

Security and resilience considerations arise from creating a dependency between the telecoms and water supplies, both priority Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) sectors. Collaboration with the Cabinet Office (CO) and sector security teams in the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) will mitigate such risks.

Existing Cross-Government Working

Policy responsibility for this project spans multiple departments. DCMS owns digital infrastructure, regulated by Ofcom, whilst DEFRA owns water policy which Ofwat regulates. The Geospatial Commission is rolling out the National Underground Asset Register Programme over the next few years and the government has committed to develop a national capability in digital twinning.

In total there are at least five relevant departments, multiple agencies, several industry bodies, 21 water companies, dozens of telecoms operators, and local and regional Government with an interest. While the technical feasibility of this method of delivery appears relatively straightforward, the cultural, organisational, regulatory and market alignment barriers to adoption are significant.

Whilst cross-Government working arrangements exist between DCMS, DEFRA, and BEIS, these are often siloed which can slow the progress of substantial change. For example, telecoms enjoy the protection of the Electronic Communications Code (ECC) which enables access to sites for infrastructure with no equivalent arrangement for water. Water mains are covered by wayleaves - contracts with the landowner which allow the passage of water and telecoms to manage the supply,

but not other commercial services. Many pipelines are underneath roads owned by local authorities, but others cross private land. This complexity creates real barriers to innovation.

The complexity of regulation in this area also serves as a barrier. Codes and wayleaves for example, while creating income for agents, lawyers and consultants, are technical and not well understood by local Government officers. Adapting them for common use will take specialist effort from officials, regulators and legal teams and industry bodies, including Water UK, Independent Networks Cooperative Association, UK Wireless Infrastructure Providers Association and others.

The project will lower cross-government regulatory, organisational and commercial barriers to broadband/mobile deployment through water mains. It will particularly focus on legal frameworks for telecoms and water deployment, but also convene the two industries to create a common, but secure and resilient solution.

Note the distinction between the overall Fibre in Water project work to address regulatory and other barriers to rollout and the objectives of the Pilot this competition is planning to launch. The Pilot will inform and test the wider work, but scope of the Pilot will not action those changes to regulation etc.

2. Competition outline

2.1 Fibre in Water Competition ambition

There are two overarching ambitions of the competition:

1. To successfully pilot FiW in a real-world setting that will demonstrate this as a viable method of connecting hard-to-reach communities whilst simultaneously supporting objectives of the water industry; and
2. To ensure both demand and supply side of the market have capability to roll out the solution at scale.

DCMS plans to invest in one or more projects targeting all aspects of FiW technology which will be led by the private sector. This will involve a range of organisations (for example, water utility companies, vendors, system integrators, software providers, and small innovative enterprises) and may also involve public sector organisations including researchers. The project will provide the opportunity for economic development by stimulating the development of a thriving FiW ecosystem involving multiple vendors.

The project will be delivered through the 5G Testbeds and Trials Programme run by DCMS.

2.2 Scope

2.2.1 Competition objectives

Projects applying to this competition are expected to address all objectives.

1. **Execute a Feasibility Study to de-risk and inform the detailed scope, costs and benefits of the pilot implementation. Sign-off of this study will form a gate for progression with the rest of the pilot(s).**
2. **Deploy, operate and monitor a FiW pilot solution(s) in the UK at sufficient scale to explore the technical, security, operational, regulatory and commercial challenges and benefits to all stakeholders and to give confidence that the solution could be scaled nationally.**
3. **Support DCMS in building a community or ecosystem around the pilot(s) that will ensure wide adoption of FiW, sharing key learning in the form of case study, technical reports and other project outputs.**
4. **Collaborate with DCMS, DEFRA and their partners to inform and test regulatory, commercial, operational and cultural barriers to widespread adoption of FiW.**

Ultimately, the pilot should create sufficient knowledge, confidence and expertise that the market will follow on to deploy FiW widely in the UK in absence of further government funding.

2.2.2 Priorities

Through discussion with both public and private stakeholders we have worked to define FiW functions which will be critical in delivering a minimum viable product. By addressing these barriers we are able to accelerate and enable the FiW ecosystem.

We believe priority in proposals should be given to:

- **Regulatory/Legal barriers** - Legal frameworks for provision of telecoms and water which are set out in legislation and policy led by DCMS, DEFRA, and regulated by Ofcom and Ofwat. Wayleaves are used in both industries to provide a formal agreement between landowners and service providers. Changes to these arrangements may be needed to enable FiW to be deployed widely and strong proposals will inform and test policy in this area.
- **Economic barriers** - Water companies have strong incentives to address leaks, but how they might benefit from carrying commercial telecoms services is not yet determined. The same is true for telecom operators working with the water industry. Projects should test these aspects of operating a combined service.
- **Technical integration** - Technical solutions on offer have been shown to work in other geographies. Proposed pilots should indicate how they will grow technical and operational knowledge of actually deploying and running the joint solution in a UK context and deliver potential benefits.
- **Cultural barriers** - Certain sections of the general public have previously proved to have strong objections to the deployment of new technology, and it is to be expected that not all people will welcome the insertion of fibre into mains drinking water pipes. The pilot should research the degree of resistance to the solution and work with DCMS on dissemination of positive messaging to reassure, and measure the impact of interventions.
- **Collaboration challenges** - The Water and Telecoms industries do not regularly provide services collaboratively. The pilot should explore and demonstrate best practice in

operational working to deliver resilient and efficient service, and provide secure assets for both industries.

- **Consumer bill impact** - The water industry operates with a mandate that requires water companies to provide water as a critical national service at best value for consumers. Good proposals will indicate how implementations of Fibre in Water will result in lower consumer bills.

While these are highlighted as priorities, the competition will welcome applications across the breadth and depth of the FiW. The competition will use a portfolio approach, ensuring we have a variety of successful bids.

2.2.3 Mandatory Requirements

In your application, there are several requirements we expect to be addressed if you will be piloting the Fibre in Water solution. The list of requirements are as follows:

- The areas of the country you plan to pilot this solution
- The types of pipes you be piloting the solution in
- Maintenance of pipes you will perform to deliver the required standards for drinking water over multiple years
- Arrangements and agreements which you will need to be made ahead of the pilot
- The ways that the consortium will share learning and disseminate information from the feasibility study and pilot

2.2.4 Security Requirements

During the assessment process, alongside the priorities identified, we will carefully consider the security of projects. We will look for evidence that entrants have a clear understanding of security of the FiW architecture, and consider this. Secure by design principles and good practice are required for all projects, DCMS reserves the right to fail projects if their security approach is not deemed sufficient by assessors.

We consider the FiW security challenge to be one of the key issues that needs to be addressed and believe that the UK is well situated to provide innovative solutions that will provide confidence in the security of the technology. There is a huge opportunity for innovation in this space and we see this as an opportunity that we expect all projects to engage with.

Some example potential security challenges the project could seek to address as research outcomes:

- Challenge of creating a dependency between two of the highest priority Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) sectors.
- Challenge of responding to an incident due to a mix of telecoms and water skills and drivers to restore services.
- Challenge of ensuring no vulnerabilities are introduced inadvertently for either sector, potential integration risks.
- Challenge of ensuring secure and resilient supply chains in both sectors.
- Challenge of joining together regulatory roles both sectors regulators have a duty to ensure a secure and resilient supply. SEMD (Security and Emergency Measures Direction) in water and Telecommunication Security Bill.
- Challenge to secure water networks against water terrorism

Some potential security innovation opportunities:

- Providing a more resilient security monitoring system by using fibre and removing dependency on legacy PSTN systems.
- CNI policy innovation - showing how dependencies can be managed effectively.
- Securing the water and telecoms supply increases costs to consumers - can this be offset by revenue generated from telecoms network distribution.
- New technologies making water pipes more resilient both physically and detecting leaks etc.
- Pinpointing issues in pipes so emergencies can be responded to quicker.
- Having more diverse routes for telecoms improves redundancy and resilience.
- Working with industry bodies such as Water UK, Tech UK etc to come up with an industry position that works.
- Create new open standards for combined water and telecom systems.

2.2.5 Sustainability

DCMS will, as a condition of making funding available, require the successful applicant to set out the principles of how they will create sustainable project outputs in their application, and to have an approved plan in place prior to 31 March 2024.

DCMS is looking to fund project solutions that begin at TRL levels 3-7 however we will consider lower levels if a strong case can be made.

It is envisaged that successful proposals will have an international outlook, building upon existing UK strengths and aim to develop globally-viable business models, with the goal.

All activities funded under the competition must be carried out in the UK.

2.3 Funding

There is up to **£4 million of funding** available from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) in this competition.

DCMS will make available grant funding up to £4 million to individual projects. Projects must complete all grant funded activities by 31 March 2024.

Funds must be used for experimental development, as described in the “**5G Testbeds and Trials - General Guidance for Grant Applicants**” document. Grant recipients will be required to confirm that the costs they wish to claim for are capitalised and/or treated as capital expenditure in line with UK GAAP.

2.3.1 Subsidy Control

For experimental development involving collaboration under UK Subsidy Control, the maximum grant allowed towards your eligible project costs under subsidy control rules if you are an organisation receiving direct grant funding from DCMS is:

- up to 60% if you are a small business
- up to 50% if you are a medium-sized business
- up to 40% if you are a large business

Research organisations undertaking non-economic activity will be funded as follows:

- universities: up to 80% of eligible costs
- all other research organisations: up to 100% of eligible costs

The definition of SME used by DCMS is set out in the Companies Act 2006, amended by The Companies, Partnerships and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2015¹. Under the Companies Act 2006 paragraphs 465 to 467 the SME can be summarised as: Up to 249 employees and annual turnover no greater than £36 million and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding £18 million. A large business in this context means any enterprise which is not an SME.

Successful bidders will be required to provide a breakdown of their expenses with accompanying legal sign off to confirm their compliance with Subsidy Control principles. We withhold the right to disqualify projects if it is not provided in a timely manner.

Applicants should refer to ‘Fibre in Water Competition - General Guidance for Grant Applicants’ for the full detail on the subsidy control requirements, including the funding rates.

2.3.2 Grant Funding Agreement

Successful projects should be prepared to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) within 6 weeks of notification of our intention to grant funding.

Projects must declare they have understood and accepted the terms of the grant agreement when submitting their application. The terms and conditions set out in the GFA are non-negotiable and are available on the gov.uk competition website. We recommend that you review this with your legal advisors and raise any queries you may have before submitting your application.

2.3.3 Eligible cost and funding allocations

Eligible costs are costs that you incur in carrying out your project for which grant funding may be claimed - including the costs of your labour, overheads, materials, subcontracts and T&S among others. These eligible costs are intended to cover all activities directly associated with carrying out your project. Please see the **FiW - Eligible Project Costs Guidance** document for full details and explanation. Sample evidence of these costs being incurred will be required as part of the grant claims process.

The applicant(s) selected at the end of this competition will need to follow the process and criteria that will be set out in a DCMS grant funding agreement to access funding (a template for which is available on the competition webpage) for individual activities.

The following criteria apply to the distribution of funds amongst a consortium:

- Total subcontracting cost is limited to 30% of the total project costs - a clear case must be made as to why subcontractors are not key project partners and why it is not possible for the work to be conducted by a project partner.
- No single partner can receive more than 70% of the total eligible project costs
- At least 70% of total eligible project costs should be incurred by private sector business organisations

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/46/section/465>

- For all research organisations and public sector organisations the total level of project participation is set at a maximum of 30% of total eligible project costs. If your consortium contains more than one research or public sector organisation, this maximum will be distributed between them

Within your consortium, there must be a lead partner who will be the accountable body and recipient of any DCMS grant awarded. They will also be responsible for managing the consortium and for any distribution of DCMS funds to consortium partners, as set out in the consortium’s collaboration agreement. Please note that Grant Funding is paid quarterly and in arrears.

The applicant(s) selected at the end of this competition will need to follow the process and criteria that will be set out in a DCMS grant funding agreement to access funding for individual activities.

FiW competition projects should complete all DCMS funded activities by 31 March 2024, unless an extension is agreed with the DCMS. Non-DCMS funded activities could continue beyond this date.

DCMS funding available under the funding agreement will need to be:

- Complemented with additional financial and non-financial contributions by the private sector partner(s) and/or other project participants (including public sector participants) as agreed with the 5GTT Programme during the development of the project; and
- Compliant with Subsidy Control rules.

Please read the “**5G Testbeds and Trials - General Guidance for Grant Applicants**” document for more information on the different categories of funding and the rules around our subsidy control framework.

Proposals for ecosystem development activities beyond the project consortium should be included in applications and should make up at least 3% of the DCMS grant, with grant claims for this activity subject to match funding requirements specified by subsidy control rules. Such activities should lead to the production of tangible outputs such as published reports, events and workshops.

3. Eligibility criteria

Consortia must demonstrate clearly in their application how they meet **all** the eligibility criteria set out in this section.

3.1 Eligible applicants

This competition is open to applications from consortia from across the UK. Organisations which do not have a UK presence may participate in the delivery of projects but will not be eligible to receive DCMS funding. However, we welcome proposals that have an international outlook, building upon existing UK strengths and partnering with non-UK organisations to develop globally-viable business models.

All awards will be made subject to successful due diligence checks.

High risk vendors (HRVs) are not permitted to participate in consortia as a consortium partner or supplier. See [NCSC Advice](#) for more information on HRVs. Public funds must not be used to pay for any HRV products or services through the competition. We understand that in the case of Mobile

Network Operators (MNOs) for example, with pre-existing HRV equipment in their networks, these networks may reasonably be used to build testbeds. However, funding must not be used to buy additional equipment or services from HRVs.

3.2 Proposing consortium

In order to attract the broadest range of proposals, we are open to receiving proposals from consortia that can be led by any type of organisation from the public, private, third or academic sectors, providing that the consortium meets the following criteria:

- There must be a lead organisation that demonstrates that it can act as the accountable body, has the capability, and is able to manage the delivery of the project across the consortium with clear project governance and leadership.
- To be considered a consortium, at least two organisations must be requesting grant funding from DCMS.
- The consortium shows evidence of private sector partnership, including strong industry representation.
- Organisations which are developing Fibre In Water solutions or services and are still in the process of securing or thinking about securing DWI approval are welcome to submit bids.
- The consortium should demonstrate that it can meet the funding requirements as outlined in the “Subsidy Control” section above.
- The consortium demonstrates committed support from individuals with decision-making and budgetary responsibility from each member organisation.
- While we do not require SME involvement in consortia, we do strongly encourage bidders to consider their involvement and will take this into account when considering our portfolio.

3.2.1 Regulatory approvals

The consortium must have access to the spectrum, network and water delivery capabilities required to deliver the project, or has a clear plan to acquire or build them in a timely manner. This may be in the form of an agreement with an existing provider, or through the deployment of new infrastructure, in addition to any required connections to existing or third-party infrastructure.

Radio spectrum may be commercially licenced, by using an [Ofcom Innovation and Trial Licence](#) or by making use of Ofcom’s [new licensing approach](#) to provide localised access to spectrum bands that can support mobile technology.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate can provide approvals and support for innovation.

3.3 Roles

You should specify the following roles in your proposal, as applicable:

Organisation Role	Notes
Project Lead	For all projects we expect that this will be a business organisation. The proposal should make it clear why the project lead is the most appropriate organisation to lead the project.

Key Project Partner	<p>These will include all organisations which will receive grant funding from DCMS and any other public sector source.</p> <p>In addition, any other organisation which the consortium regards as critical to the delivery of the project but which is not receiving grant funding from DCMS or any other public sector source.</p>
Project Partner	<p>These are any other organisations not receiving grant funding from DCMS or any other public sector source and which will undertake important activities during project delivery.</p> <p>These organisations may be involved in the project governance as appropriate.</p>
Key Project Suppliers	<p>These are known key suppliers who are providing components or services that the project will rely on. They will not be involved in project governance and will not sign a Project Participation Agreement.</p>
Project Participants	<p>These are any other organisations not receiving grant funding from DCMS or any other public sector source.</p> <p>These organisations may be identified at the proposal stage, or could be added to the project at a later date.</p>

4 Further General Guidelines

4.1 Benefits monitoring

We expect bidding projects to focus particularly on the measurable benefits that could arise from their work, rather than just running demonstrations. This is a key part of the project. In bids we expect to see quantitative estimates of these benefits, how they will be measured and evidenced throughout and after the projects.

Once started, projects will be required to agree benefits metrics with DCMS, focusing on the positive outcomes of the project, and monitor and report these to the Department. Moreover, we will require the project to report on Technology Readiness Level increases, investment in each consortium partner and a range of other information to be agreed with projects once selected. A further key area for reporting will be lessons learnt and the knowledge dissemination activities undertaken by the project. Project reporting will be quarterly and will form part of the deliverables that the project is expected to achieve in order to access grant funding. It is important to note that the Department expects the project to appoint someone that is responsible for the benefits monitoring and reporting and allocate specific time to undertake this work.

In addition, project partners will be expected to participate in occasional Programme evaluation activities, e.g. surveys and interviews of grant recipients, which will be conducted by DCMS or a third party acting on its behalf to assess the outcomes of the 5GTT Programme and its constituent projects. Evaluation activities are expected to be undertaken both during and after the lifetime of the project. An

example list of monitoring indicators and the template that will need to be reported on quarterly is provided for sight in supporting documents. These are likely to include the following:

- Reduction in Water leakage
- The proportion of FiW that can be laid compared to other conventional deployments
- Reduction in cost of deploying fibre
- Reduction in time taken to deploy fibre
- Reduction of Greenhouse Gases incurred in deploying fibre
- Increased broadband and mobile coverage
- Reduced operating costs for Water and Telecoms companies

This is not an exhaustive list of benefits that we would like to measure and we would be interested to see others.

4.2 Collaboration

Projects are expected to be carried out collaboratively within their consortium. Where there is opportunity for mutually beneficial inter-working with other publicly funded projects, participation through UK5G, Water UK and other channels and the wider ecosystem, on topics of shared interest we expect projects to take advantage. The aim is that by combining the efforts and knowledge base, producing tangible and useful outputs that can be shared and demonstrated, the collaboration activities will help to foster the ecosystem. DCMS will monitor collaboration, facilitate partnerships and support these efforts where relevant. At least 3% of grant funds should be allocated to ecosystem development activities in the wider water and telecoms industries beyond the consortium. The purpose of this work is to enable development of demand and supply for the solution post the pilot(s).

Potential areas for collaboration activity include key cross-cutting strategic issues outlined in section 2.2 (scope).

All Project Leads, Participants and Partners in selected projects must sign up to the **5G Testbeds and Trials - Programme Participation Agreement** with DCMS as part of the application process. This outlines how members of the UK FiW ecosystem should collaborate, share knowledge and join-up through the five FiW Project Participation Principles.

4.3 Dissemination

Communicating the findings and stories from projects will be a key responsibility of consortia that receive DCMS funding. The dissemination of shared learning throughout the FiW ecosystem is an integral part of the project(s) and will be considered throughout the application process.

Working with DCMS, DEFRA and other organisations, projects will be expected to plan, support and deliver communications activities to ensure the benefits of the project(s) are demonstrated and shared as widely as possible with the FiW ecosystem. Such activities should lead to the production of tangible outputs such as published reports, events and workshops.

4.4 Consortium Forming Support

In addition to running a briefing and networking session to support potential bidders, DCMS is working with UK5G and KTN to provide the following options to support consortia forming:

- Elevator pitches from a number of organisations who are interested in forming / joining a consortium have already shared their Elevator Pitch videos. These will be available on the UK5G Website for you to view on the competition page.
- The Collaboration Exchange, which is an easy path to increasing awareness of your business' interest in joining a project, is to post in the "Find a partner to collaborate with" thread on UK5G. You also have the option to "Follow" the thread if you just want to keep an eye on the businesses who are expressing interest.
- Support from UK5G who can also help with more specific issues on your application. They can be contacted on hello@uk5g.org.

5. Competition process

5.1 Dates and deadlines

For this competition, the application window is 8 weeks and the timeline is:

Competition launch	9th August 2021
Applications deadline (8 weeks)	4th October 2021
Shortlisted applicants notified	Mid October 2021
Interviews with shortlisted applicants	Late October 2021
Successful applicant notified	November 2021
Grant claim period	January 2022 - 31 March 2024

The competition will take applications that cover the full funding period to March 2024. They will be expected to submit fully costed bids signed off at appropriate levels within the applicant organisations.

DCMS may use a portfolio approach that will ensure projects cover competition objectives. This is to make sure that all projects considered to be above a quality threshold meet the strategic criteria described in this competition guidance and avoid oversubscription of projects with a similar focus.

When all submitted applications are received, if a large number of bids are received they will undergo a triaging process in which they will be assessed based on questions A1 and A2 before a full assessment on the application will be conducted. Applicants scoring a mark below 4 will be deemed ineligible for funding.

The competition process will follow these steps:

- The project lead will submit applications with detailed financial plans that cover up to March 2024.
- Submitted applications will be reviewed to make sure that they are eligible for the competition.
- Only applications that meet the eligibility requirements of the competition will be assessed.
- Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed face-to-face or by video call by DCMS.
- The lead applicants will be notified of the funding decision for their project.
- DCMS may elect to identify reserve applicants, in case the preferred applicant(s) is/are unable to complete a grant funding agreement with DCMS on a timely basis.

- A grant funding agreement will be issued to successful applicants.
- All eligible and in scope applications will receive assessor feedback.

5.2 Project Development Review

A Project Development Review at key milestones for each project will require consortia to submit updated proposals for the remaining funding period (to March 2024).

The purpose of the Project Development Review is to:

- Help ensure projects are delivering high quality outcomes by providing an opportunity for both the projects and DCMS to reconsider approaches and strategies and potentially make adjustments.
- Provide an opportunity to reassess the funding envelope for the project.
- Help ensure projects are aligned across the portfolio and working in collaboration, where appropriate, to maximise value for money and achieve common aims.

At the Project Development Review, updated plans will be reviewed for approval by DCMS against the projects' stated aims and those of the competition. The projects may use this opportunity to refine their approach or adjust the project's direction. The purpose of this Project Development Review point is to ensure projects are continuing to deliver suitable and value for money outcomes based on the developing digital connectivity and water landscapes.

6 How to apply

6.1 What to complete

The following documents need to be completed as part of your application:

1. **Application Form** (one per project, plus any allowed appendices) - see Application and Assessment section below for further details of the application
2. **Project Finance Form** (one per applicant covering all proposed costs) - this document is used to understand how you have estimated your project costs - see **Eligible Project Costs Guidance** for further guidance.
3. **Programme Participation Agreement** (one per applicant) - which is provided for information and will need to be completed upon award

6.2 How to submit your application

You must submit your documents to the following email address: 5genquiries@dcms.gov.uk
You will receive an email acknowledgement of your registration.

Applications for submission must be submitted by midday Monday 4th October.

We strongly advise submitting well in advance of the deadline (i.e. days before) as there is always a risk that IT issues prevent you submitting promptly (e.g. issues sending large files).

6.3 Application format

You can only use the application form and templates provided. They contain specific guidance on information you must provide.

The application form and templates contain specific fields. It is important that you complete each field and submit a fully completed form. Incomplete forms may be considered ineligible and not sent for assessment. DCMS reserves the right to ask for additional clarifications and correction following the submission deadline.

The application form and templates must not be altered, converted or submitted as a different file type.

The submission must conform to the maximum length specifications stated in the “Competition questions” section below. Information in excess of this will be disregarded. Hyperlinks referencing further information may be included to inform more detailed understanding post-selection, but will be disregarded during the assessment of applications.

Additional information submitted at the request of the 5GTT Programme must meet any timing, format and length requirements we may specify at the time.

7 Application and assessment

7.1 Application structure

The structure for applications is as follows:

Applicant information (not assessed)

- Project Name
- Project Lead Organisation
- Project Lead Contact Name
- Project Lead Contact Email

Public Description (400 word limit) (not assessed)

- Describe your project in a way that will be understandable to the general public, and in a way that you are happy to see published. Please do not include any commercially sensitive information, e.g. intellectual property or patent details. We will publish this description. This could happen before you start your project. We would also like to publish the partners involved in your proposal and the public description of the project, but this is not mandatory. Please also check the box below to confirm DCMS may publish a list of your proposed project partners with the description.
- DCMS may publish project partner list (organisation names only)

Evaluated Questions

Responses will be evaluated using the general weighting scheme set out in the following table. Supporting questions, detailed marking and associated reasoning are set out in subsequent sections.

Section	Weighting	Ideal response
A. Project description and objectives	25%	A clear description of the project, stating its aims, its objectives and expected outcomes. The description should describe which elements of Fibre in Water technologies will be adopted and why, detail the project's innovative elements and summarise the expected key impacts of the trials. The description should also outline the consortia and their roles, along with key members and who's doing what.
B. Outcomes, sustainability and route to market	30%	Provide a clear description of project outcomes and a reasoned and credible comparison of the benefits and costs of the project. Outline how your successful trial will lead towards deployment of commercially-viable products and services sustained without further government grant funding as well as the additional Social Value your project will create.
C. Project delivery	25%	Evidence that the project plan and work package tasks have been thought through and that there is a robust approach to controlling the project in flight that is proportionate to the funding levels sought.
D. Financial	20%	A clear overview and explanation of the costs of the programme and confidence that financial management and control of the project will deliver good value for money.

In evaluating your responses we value brevity and the maximum word limit is fixed, but please give sufficient evidence to support your bid. Tables will not be included in this word limit but should be only used where necessary. Additional diagrams should not be provided unless requested. Content beyond the word limits will not be provided to assessors.

Your response should provide sufficient evidence to support any assertions made and state any underlying principles or assumptions.

You should not include commercial sales messages about products or services being proposed.

Section A - Project description, objectives and outcomes (25%)

Please provide a clear description of the project, stating its aims, its objectives and expected outcomes. The description should describe which elements of FiW and other technologies have been adopted and why, detail the project's innovative elements and summarise the expected benefits of the project's outcomes. The description should also outline the consortia and their roles, along with key members and who's doing what.

An ideal response to this section will provide a clear and compelling description of the nature, scale and value of the proposed project, and why the proposed consortia is best placed to deliver it. It should address the following **three** questions.

- **Question 1: Describe the project's strategic aims highlighting which FiW challenges you plan to address? Include reference to the competition objectives - 10% - 750 words (Triage Question)**
 - Describe the main motivation for the project and which project challenges you will address. Your description must identify operational and commercial drivers for success and the particular challenges that could be met using FiW capabilities, highlighting innovative aspects.
 - How will your solution impact the UK and global markets for FiW? How will it be differentiated from competing FiW products or other solutions that could achieve the same objectives?
 - State, in simple terms, what you will deliver in your project.
- **Question 2: Describe, in technical terms, the system architecture and major technological components and innovations of the project including a diagram(s). - 10% - 750 words (Triage Question)**
- **Question 3: Describe your approach to the project's telecoms, water and cyber security? - 5% - 400 words**
 - Describe how you will ensure your implemented solutions are safe and secure conforming to best practice in both Water and Telecoms industries.
 - What technical functionality is built into your system to appropriately manage and monitor telecoms, water and cyber security?

Section B - Outcome sustainability, benefits and route to market (30%)

Please provide a reasoned and credible picture of how the project's expected outcomes might lead towards deployment of financially viable products including wider benefits of the telecoms and water networks.

An ideal response to this section will provide a reasoned and credible business case for the development of the project's products. It should address the following **four questions**.

- **Question 1: Describe the project's measurable outcomes - 5% - 400 words**
 - Describe the measurable impacts of your project by the end of the funding period and how you will evidence the impact of your project.
 - Describe your approach to the identification and dissemination of lessons learned and project outcomes and explain how it benefits the water and telecoms industries as well as adding Social Value.
- **Question 2: How will your project bring the product(s) or capability(s) closer to deployment and support the development of a FiW ecosystem? If helpful, you may wish to use Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) to support this - 10% - 750 word limit**
 - Describe how the project will contribute to developing the UK's infrastructure capabilities in creating a FiW ecosystem.
 - Describe how your proposal will help drive adoption of live FiW services in the absence of further government funding.
 - Highlight the key outputs your project will deliver in each project year and how these will deliver against the challenges and competition objectives, as well as any others you have identified.

- **Question 3: Building on your response to question 1, compare and contrast the project's benefits to its costs. Please specify the project's measurable monetisable and non-monetisable benefits or explain how you will determine these as part of your project - 10% - 750 word limit.**
 - How the project will deliver and measure benefits, such as:
 - Reduction in Water leakage.
 - Reduction in cost of deploying fibre.
 - Reduction in time taken to deploy fibre.
 - Reduction of Greenhouse Gases incurred in deploying fibre.
 - Increased broadband and mobile coverage.
 - Reduced operating costs for Water and Telecoms companies.
 - Reducing the cost barrier for development and deployment of FiW technologies, products and services.
 - Developing and testing new business models and applications for FiW solutions, and consequential benefits to businesses, including productivity improvements.
 - Supporting the development of the local economy, including the growth of local businesses, particularly SMEs.
 - Additional Social Value your project will create.
 - You should clearly identify what will be delivered before the Project Development Review.
 - Note: It is strongly recommended that you begin to quantify some of the above benefits as this will greatly support your benefits realisation efforts

- **Question 4: Describe your vision for the development and funding of the product(s) once the project is completed - 5% - 400 word limit**
 - Describe how the project outputs and outcomes will deliver value beyond the funding period, including how they could be further developed, scaled or improved beyond the timeframe or outside of the scope of this project.
 - Briefly detail how your vision for FiW solutions supports other government or private sector schemes for rolling out gigabit-capable broadband and mobile services.
 - Describe how this project will affect your longer term roadmap(s) for new products and services.
 - Briefly describe how your project will help to foster a vibrant and open market for FiW solutions across the UK and beyond.

Section C - Project Delivery (25%)

Please provide a detailed plan for the delivery of the project. A good response will provide evidence that the project proposal is credible and that there is a robust approach to controlling the project that is proportionate to the funding levels sought.

It should address the following **three questions**.

- **Question 1: Provide a plan and supporting description that outlines the following: - 12.5% - 1000 word limit**
 - Describe how the project will be delivered.
 - Outline key activities, including purpose and objectives of these activities.
 - Describe your mobilisation plan (from grant agreement to starting delivery)
 - Highlight key decision points.
 - Identify milestones, including grant payment milestones.

- o Gantt Chart (required) or other supporting materials should be provided as an annex.
- **Question 2: How will the project be governed and decisions made? - 5% - 600 word limit**
 - o Describe your proposed project management processes and governance structures.
 - o Describe the roles and responsibilities, skills and experience of all partners that are relevant to the approach you will be taking. In particular, identify the participant(s) who will be responsible for the management and operation of the testbed, and why they have the right skills and capabilities to deliver this.
 - o Describe how your consortium will deliver this project. How will the organisations achieve more working together than if they were working individually?
 - o Explain why the project lead is best placed to undertake this role. Business led projects are preferred unless there is a strong justification otherwise.
 - o Describe which legal entities will own any assets which are paid for by grant funding.
 - o Describe the details of any vital external parties, including sub-contractors, who you will need to work with to successfully carry out the project.
- **Question 3: Describe the most significant risks to the successful delivery of the project and how they will be managed (7.5%) - 600 word limit**
 - o Identify the main risks and uncertainties of the project and provide a risk analysis for the project content and approach, with a ranking of the risks and mitigations. Include any cost, timing, technical, commercial, managerial and environmental risks as well as other uncertainties (for example ethical issues, device/service availability issues) associated with the project.
 - o Identify any internal and external dependencies, support or engagement required to complete your project. Indicate what is agreed at the time of submission and what is still to be agreed, for example any legal agreements or consents that need to be put in place to enable the works to be undertaken.

Section D - Financial (20%)

Please explain the financial approach of the project and how it will achieve value for money.

A good response to this section will provide a clear overview and explanation of the costs of the programme and confidence in financial management and control of the project.

It should address the following **three questions**.

- **Question 1: Identify the major cost components and explain how these represent value for money - 10% - 600 word limit**
 - o Provide a narrative description summarising what each project participant will be delivering and the costs associated and how this will be managed..
 - o Describe the contributions in kind from each project participant.
 - o Provide a cost breakdown of forecast expenditure on the project. Identify costs for the feasibility study and pilot separately. Explain how the costs have been calculated.
 - o Describe what water and telecoms network and any other infrastructure will be used in the project (if any) and how it will be sourced.
 - o Describe any subcontractor costs and why they are critical to the project and are not grant receiving consortium members.
 - o Identify the amount of DCMS grant and other funding you will set aside for collaboration with the FiW ecosystem. A minimum of 3% of grant funding is required.
 - o Confirm that no grant funding claims extend beyond 31 March 2024.

- o Provide an appendix separately identifying the following:
 - The estimated project cost for each work package. Make clear the level of contribution from each project participant and the level of grant funding requested from DCMS.
 - The spend profile by month, linking it to milestones and deliverables as needed. This should be fully consistent with the dates you have specified in the project plan.
- **Question 2: Explain how you will ensure value for money through your sourcing approach and supply chain - 5% - 400 word limit**
 - o Explain your sourcing approach.
 - o Confirm that the grant amount requested includes any irrecoverable VAT, all fees and charges, and appropriate allowance has been made for any price inflation during the project period.
- **Question 3: Explain to what extent this project would go ahead without public funding and the difference public funding would make. Why would you not be able to wholly fund the project from your own or other private-sector funding? 5% - 400 word limit**
 - o Detail how the funding you require will allow you to undertake the project in terms of time to market and any other relevant factors, where you would otherwise be unable to.
 - o Tell us to what extent the project could go ahead in any form without government funding, and if so, what difference would government funding make? Explain why this contribution would be beneficial to the project partners involved in the project, as well as the UK taxpayer (in terms of economic, social, environmental and other impacts).
 - o Describe any direct follow-on funding from project partners. This should include any post-project research and development, further trialling and capital spending commitments by the project partners.
 - o Describe any additional areas of added value not set out elsewhere in your proposal.

Note: As part of assessment of Section D, Assessors need to be confident the project is good value and can be delivered to the stated cost. They will consider:

- The response to these questions and the supporting financial information provided.
- The suitability of the proposed costs - costs considered excessive will be a cause for serious concern.
- The total amount of grant funding requested from DCMS. Whether there is an appropriate level of contributions from public sector organisations who are project partners.

7.2 Supplementary Information

Information provided here will be used to aid understanding of the assessed responses to the questions above.

1 Finance Summary

Please complete the following finance summary.

	1. Organisation name (as officially listed e.g. on Companies House)	2. Organisation registered postcode	3. Entity registration number (e.g. Companies House)	4. Enterprise category	5. Postcode where majority of work will be done	6. Costs to be funded by each organisation (£)	7. Funding sought from DCMS (£)	8. Other funding from public sector bodies (£)	9. Total (£)
Lead org.									
Partner 1									
Partner 2									
Partner 3									
Partner 4									
Partner 5									
Partner 6									
Partner 7									
Partner 8									
Partner 9									
Partner 10									
Partner 11									
Partner 12									
Partner 13									
Partner 14									
Partner 15									
Partner 16									
[non-partner contributions 1]									
[non-partner contributions 2]									
[non-partner contributions 3]									
[non-partner contributions 4]									
Total (£)									

Where organisations not requesting DCMS grant funding are contributing to the project, please enter their contributions in the *non-partner contributions* rows and populate.

Ref	Information Request	For Completion (guidance in italics)				
2	Please confirm that your consortium has reviewed and understands the Subsidy Control regime under which you intend to receive grant funding, and that your application complies with said rules?	<i>[Please state: 'Yes' or 'No' and which regime you intend to use]</i>				
3	I confirm that the project has obtained a legal opinion and this bid would constitute allowable subsidy under the regime you intend to use.	<i>[Please state: 'Yes' or 'No', If No, when would this be expected to occur?]</i>				
4	Has the financial contribution of each partner to the project been signed-off at an appropriate level within their organisation?	<i>[For each organisation please state: 'Yes' or 'No'. If 'No', when would this be expected to occur?]</i>				
5	Can you confirm that your bid conforms to the DCMS High Risk Vendor (HRV) policy outlined in guidance.	<i>[Please state: 'Yes' or 'No']</i>				
6	Please state the regulatory clearances or licenses you require to carry out your project. To what extent have these been secured?	<i>[Please provide details of regulatory clearances and licenses]</i>				
7	Please provide the addresses of the key locations in the project?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location & address</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>[Insert location name and address postcode]</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location & address	<i>[Insert location name and address postcode]</i>		
Location & address						
<i>[Insert location name and address postcode]</i>						
8	Please confirm that the grant amount requested from DCMS includes any irrecoverable VAT, all fees and charges, and appropriate allowance has been made for any price inflation during the project period.	<i>[Enter 'Confirmed']</i>				
9	Please confirm that if you are successful in this competition, the Project Lead will accept the terms and conditions in the draft grant funding agreement provided? We expect projects to sign within 6 weeks of notification of successful bid.	<i>[Enter 'Confirmed']</i>				

10	Confirm your project has reviewed and understand the 3% collaboration requirements outlined in the guidance.	<i>[Enter 'Confirmed']</i>
11	Please confirm whether partners have provided a letter of support or commitment to the project? Please submit a copy of letter(s) as a PDF(s).	<i>[Enter 'Confirmed' and partner name]</i>

12 Other required attachments

1. Project Finance Form (one per project partner), signed
2. Copies (.pdf) of 2 years of latest accounts for each partner

7.3 Assessment

If DCMS deems there to be a lot of bids to assess, they may choose to triage applications. The triage questions are questions 1 and 2 of section A (project description, objectives and outcomes). The process for assessment is as follows:

1 - Sift

Initial eligibility checks will be undertaken on all applications against the scope, funding and eligibility requirements in the application guidance. If an application passes the sift it will progress to evaluation. If an application does not pass the sift, we will notify the lead partner with an explanation as to why.

2 - Shortlisting

All applications passing the sift will be evaluated and moderated beginning with a triaging process in which they will be assessed based on one question before a full assessment on the application will be conducted in which they must reach a minimum threshold for evaluation to proceed. Successful applications will then be scored against the scoring scale and any pass/fail criteria and then ranked based on total score. A shortlist of the top ranked applications will be invited to interview.

3 - Outcome and feedback

The result of the shortlisting will be shared with all evaluated applications. Feedback will be provided to all applications that have been fully evaluated once the competition has closed. It is the responsibility of the lead to communicate the feedback with the rest of the consortium, if applicable. No additional feedback can be provided.

4 - Interview

Shortlisted applicants will be provided with a list of questions and requests for further information that must be supplied in advance of the interview. DCMS will tell the lead partner when their interview will be. Interviews are likely to be held in central London, or online through video conferencing should COVID restrictions still be in operation.

5 - Post-interview

The evaluation scores of shortlisted applications will be updated following the interview, also taking into account any information provided, where requested by DCMS. Shortlisted applications will be ranked in descending order, based on total score. The highest ranked application(s) will be selected

as preferred applicants. This will be done in accordance with the above and taking into account a portfolio approach to ensure that there is an appropriate balance of projects which support the competition and policy objectives as set out in the guidance.

The lead partners will be notified of the selection decision, at this point projects should be prepared to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) within 6 weeks of notification of our intention to grant funding.

Following the assessment, we will carry out a period of due diligence to validate and revise where appropriate the project scope, delivery plan and funding arrangements prior to the award of a grant. This will include both financial and reputational checks.

7.4 Scoring

Individual responses to each question will be scored in line with the following scheme. The assessors will score your answers to these questions. Each question will be given a score 0-10:

- 0-1 – Serious concerns: for example, does not meet requirements, and/or raises serious concerns.
- 2-3 – Some concerns: for example, meets some requirements but with gaps and/or some concerns.
- 4-5 – Adequate confidence: for example, meets most/all requirements, but lacks sufficient detail in some areas.
- 6-7 – Good confidence: for example, meets most/all requirements and provides a response that demonstrates a good understanding of the requirements.
- 8-9 – Very good confidence: for example, meets all requirements and provides a detailed response that also exceeds expectations in some areas and/or demonstrates a strong understanding of the requirements.
- 10 - Outstandingly good confidence: for example, meets all requirements and exceptional detail that exceeds expectations in many areas and demonstrates excellent understanding of the requirements.

Scores for each question will be weighted by the amount indicated against each question. Your application's total score will be the sum of the weighted scores.

7.5 Quality threshold

Following evaluation of the applications and moderation of scores, any application with an unweighted score of one or below (serious concerns) against any individual competition question, including where an error has been made by the applicant, will not be considered further for shortlisting (Step One).

All remaining applications with an average evaluation score against all competition questions (i.e. the weighted score across all competition questions) of 4 and above will be considered for shortlisting (Step 2).

DCMS also reserves the right to consider applications for shortlisting that do not meet the threshold above in the following cases:

- If an application fails to meet the threshold in Step 2 by a narrow margin as a result of the range of scoring by individual assessors being of significant variance from the average score for one or more competition questions for that application (“an outlier”). The application may be considered for shortlisting following a review of the outlier assessor’s comments and approach if the outlier score may reasonably be eliminated and the average assessment score that is recalculated falls within the threshold above.
- If there is a very low volume of applications meeting Step 2 in respect of grant funding available, DCMS may lower the threshold that applies to Step 2 for the consideration of shortlisting. This will be on the grounds that DCMS will not want grant funding to be unallocated if there is a realistic prospect of consortia being able to improve their assessment score to a satisfactory level.
- If there is a significantly higher volume of applications meeting the thresholds in respect of grant funding available, DCMS may raise the threshold that applies to Step 2 for the consideration of shortlisting. This will be on the grounds that DCMS will not want consortia with lower assessment scores to invest time and effort in preparing for the interview stage if there is a very limited prospect of them being successful.

8 Additional Information

8.1 Additional Documents

The following additional documents are provided on the website to support you in your application:

- **“5G Testbeds and Trials - General Guidance for Grant Applicants”** - which contains general information relating to this competition and the processes DCMS will use to deliver it, including: funding rules guidance, information on the different categories of funding and the rules around our subsidy control framework
- **“5G Testbeds and Trials - Eligible Project Costs Guidance”** - which contains detailed information on which project costs are eligible for funding
- **“5G Testbeds and Trials - Template Grant Funding Agreement”** - which demonstrates the process and criteria to access funding for individual activities

8.2 Notices

This document is issued in text format to organisations wishing to make an application to Fibre in Water. Should you require access to this document in another format (e.g. Braille, large font or audio) please contact us at 5genquiries@dcms.gov.uk.

All applicants are solely responsible for all their costs and expenses incurred in connection with this selection process at all stages. Under no circumstances will DCMS be liable for any costs or expenses borne by or on behalf of the applicant or any party associated with this selection process.

We reserve the right to cancel the competition at any point. We will accept no liability for any losses caused by any cancellation of this competition nor any decision not to award grant funding as a result of the competition.

At any time prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals, we reserve the right to amend, add to or withdraw all or any part of the competition material at any time during the competition. Any such amendments, additions, or removals will be notified identified in the documentation on the competition webpage.

Answers must be in English. Bidders should note that where any supplementary documents are not published in English, certified translations into English must be provided with the proposal (if applicable).

Proposals should remain valid for a period of 120 days from the competition closing date. A proposal valid for a shorter period may be rejected.

Applicants must not inform anyone outside of their proposed consortium, even approximately, what their total proposal costs are, or will be. Furthermore, bidders must not try to obtain any information about anyone else's proposal or potential proposal.

We reserve the right to discuss, for the purpose of clarification, any aspect of a proposal with the relevant bidder prior to the award of grant funding.

We reserve the right to undertake a detailed financial and technical appraisal of each bidder and their proposal and for this process to continue up to the award of any grant funding. Any such appraisal will be conducted in line with government policy at the time of assessment. Further appraisal may continue if required through the duration of the grant funding period.

No representation, warranty or undertaking, express or implied, is or will be given by DCMS or any of its agents or advisers with respect to the information contained in the competition material, including with respect to its accuracy, adequacy or completeness.

Information provided in response to this document, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR².

If you would want the information that you provide to be treated confidentially, please be aware that, in accordance with the FOIA, public sector organisations are required to comply with a statutory code of practice which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you wish that information to be treated confidentially. If we receive a request for disclosure of that information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

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

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport www.gov.uk/dcms

² Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) OJ L 119/1, 4.5.2016, as retained in UK law by virtue of section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and as amended by Schedule 1 to the Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/419)."

