

Dear ,

Support for the Vodafone and Three Merger

I write to you as the CEO of Onestream, a partner of Vodafone in the UK, providing Vodafone's products to consumers across the country. Our business, which delivers digital connectivity services to thousands of customers, is deeply committed to ensuring the UK remains at the forefront of innovation, connectivity, and competitiveness in the global economy. It is with this perspective that I urge the Competition and Markets Authority to approve the proposed merger between Vodafone and Three.

The UK's digital infrastructure is a critical driver of economic growth, societal well-being, and national competitiveness. With 5G technology poised to revolutionise industries from healthcare to retail, the stakes could not be higher. The merger between Vodafone and Three is not just about scale; it is about enabling the UK to achieve the comprehensive, nationwide 5G rollout necessary to realise these transformative benefits.

As a Vodafone partner, we see first-hand how investment in 5G technology is already providing tangible benefits to businesses, consumers, and public services alike. However, despite these advancements, the UK continues to lag behind many of its European counterparts in both the breadth and depth of 5G coverage. Currently ranked 23rd out of 32 European countries for population coverage, the UK is at risk of falling further behind without a clear step-change in investment. A combined Vodafone-Three entity is uniquely positioned to unlock this investment.

The merger promises to catalyse an £11 billion investment into the UK's digital infrastructure, accelerating the rollout of standalone 5G across all regions of the country. This will bring direct benefits to rural communities, helping to eliminate connectivity "not-spots" that currently disadvantage close to five million people. Improved digital inclusion will help close the digital divide and support social mobility, enabling people in rural and underserved areas to access the same economic opportunities as their urban counterparts.

The implications for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are the backbone of the UK economy, are equally profound. 5G technology, particularly in its standalone form, is expected to generate productivity savings for UK SMEs of up to £8.6 billion annually. In key sectors such as construction, retail, and professional services, this productivity boost will unlock growth, create new jobs, and allow businesses to compete more effectively in the global market.

Moreover, the potential for 5G to support public services is substantial. For instance, the NHS could save up to £1 billion annually through the use of 5G-enabled technologies for remote care. Such savings could be reinvested into improving front-line services, helping the UK build a future-ready health system, while also reducing operational pressures on our national health service.

Onestream strongly believes that the CMA's approval of this merger will provide the necessary market conditions for long-term investment and innovation. It will help deliver on national ambitions, including Labour's vision for full 5G coverage by 2030, ensuring that the UK does not get left behind in this critical period of technological advancement. Without the merger, the fragmented and competitive nature of the UK's telecommunications market will hinder large-scale investments, ultimately slowing the deployment of 5G and limiting the country's ability to reach its full potential.

We urge the CMA to consider the far-reaching benefits of this merger for UK consumers, businesses, and public services. The time is now for the UK to position itself as a global leader in 5G technology, and the Vodafone-Three merger is a critical step towards that goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely