

Being Digital What it Means For Britain

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Best in Europe by 2015

“...deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015” -
DCMS Structural Reform Plan

- Will be setting out a definition of what constitutes “the best”
- There is no single measure - a scorecard is likely to be the best approach
- One of the outcomes included could relate specifically to mobile broadband

The Role of Industry

BT Infinity – BT's roll out of FTTC/FTTH continues across the country and is heading towards covering 2/3 of the UK population

Virgin Media continues to deploy DOCSIS 3.0 technology across its network offering 100 MB/s to customers. Research is continuing on 200 MB/s technology.

Interwoven into this picture the UK also has a large number of smaller providers offering high speed services to customers. Work around COTS and INCA assists this

We see the development of ALA as a bridge technology bringing together operators of all sizes in providing superfast broadband.

The Role of Government? - Addressing the Final Third

Rural Broadband Pilots

“Our aim is to use these pilots to discover exactly what needs to be done to make superfast broadband commercially viable...” – Jeremy Hunt 15th July 2010

Want to test factors such as the reuse of public sector network assets and other infrastructure

Locations selected are:

- North Yorkshire
- Herefordshire
- Highlands and Islands
- Cumbria

Expect the value of the pilots to be between £5-10m each

Very different areas and potential projects – each will move at its own pace

Framework Implementation

BIS consultation on its preferred approach closes 3rd December 2010

Government response will be published end of March 2011

New provisions will come into force on 26th May 2011

- Businesses will benefit from an improved regulatory Framework that should encourage investment, and provide greater competition.
- Consumers set to benefit from access to higher-quality and lower cost communications services, including: improved choice; contract terms; strengthened rights on privacy and confidentiality; faster switching processes and improved accessibility.

Framework Directive: Security & Resilience

Article 13 aim: to increase security and resilience of networks and services

Article 13 requirements:

- Providers of public communications networks and services will take all appropriate action to manage risk
- Providers will take all appropriate steps to ensure availability and integrity of networks
- Reporting to Ofcom on actions taken to achieve requirements
- Incident reporting (to Ofcom)
- Ofcom can require security audits issue binding instructions

Net Neutrality

We remain committed to an open internet and we have seen nothing to indicate that there is a problem with regards to how ISPs or networks manage the traffic that flows over them

The Government does not believe it would be appropriate to regulate or place restraints on how the market could or could not develop.

Spectrum

Ofcom have announced that they expect the auction for the 800 MHz and 2600 MHz bands to take place in first half 2012 with services being rolled out in 2013.

The Ofcom consultation on variation of the licences for in the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands, permitting the use of UMTS (3G) closed yesterday.

The Government has committed to the release of 500MHz of spectrum below 5GHz over the next ten years.

But finding additional spectrum for mobile use will continue to be a challenge going forward.

Digital Economy Act

BT and Talk Talk have been granted leave to review the online infringement of copyright provisions of the Digital Economy Act

The Government continues to consider that the Act takes full consideration of all relevant European legislation, and is the fairest, most effective and proportionate response to the problem of widespread infringement of copyright online

The Government will vigorously defend the action, and will continue with the implementation of the initial obligations

We expect the review hearing to be around February 2011

Conclusions

Having the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015 is a challenging target, even with the considerable funds being made available.

The Government is committed to an open and transparent Internet with the minimum of regulation.

We will continue to work with Ofcom to bring the new frequency bands for mobile services to the market as soon as possible

We remain committed to the Digital Economy Act

BIS will be publishing a broadband strategy paper in December which will set out our approach in more detail