

Name of respondent: Peter Weeks

I have the following comments to make on this consultation:

1. Continued regulation of telecoms is a necessary evil for the foreseeable future. The main fixed line operator BT holds so much power through its effective monopoly control over the local loop (the “access network”) that regulation in this area will be needed for a long time to provide equivalence. Deregulation doesn’t always create competition, while any reference under the Enterprise Act will take too long in a rapidly-changing world.
2. Universal fixed line telephone services are no longer needed now mobile networks are cheap, fast and widely available. I recommend that Ofcom removes the obligation on BT and Kingston to provide and pay for these.
3. Encouraging telecoms companies to make it easier for consumers to switch between suppliers is a big step forward and would do a lot to improve competition. After all, it’s not real competition if I have a choice but in practice there are barriers to my exercising that choice.
4. Concentrate on equality of access to the network on the local loop.
5. Promote the idea of upgrading the local loop to eg fibre to the home. With that the bottleneck of slow access to high speed backbone networks is removed.