

Andrew Davies AM/AC
Minister for Economic Development
Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Your ref/Eich cyf:
Our ref/Ein cyf: SF/AD/642/023

Joe Sonke
Head of Broadband Fixed Wireless Access
Radiocommunications Agency
Wyndham House
189 march wall
London
E14 9SX
Email: joe.sonke@ra.gsi.gov.uk

Uta November 2002

Dear Mr Sonke

Broadband Fixed Wireless Access at 28GHz: Response to Consultation

Thank you for seeking the Welsh Assembly Government's views on your recent consultation document "Broadband Fixed Wireless Access (BFWA) at 28GHz: proposals to amend new and existing licences for the next stage of the award process".

I welcome the proposal to make re-available the unsold licences in a further award process. I would support, where possible and practicable, the removal of the current "use it or lose it" and "purpose of use" requirements. Their removal would provide a means through which to stimulate the interest of operators in the licences and provide them with the flexibility they require to develop these services. That said, it is important to ensure that safeguards are in place to preserve against the danger of a licence area being allowed to 'stagnate' through an operator refusing indefinitely to roll out services. This needs to be reflected in some way. I would also strongly recommend that the reserve price for Wales be reduced in the planned award process as the clearest and most effective way through which to stimulate the interest of operators in the unsold licences.

Whilst I recognise that making available BFWA spectrum at 28Ghz is not a panacea broadband solution, it is nevertheless an important part of the potential mix of solutions for connectivity. This is particularly true in a country like Wales that has many rural communities that do not benefit from the more established terrestrial forms of connectivity such as cable or ADSL and where BFWA could be used as a credible alternative. I also appreciate that the take up of these licences has its own challenges. However it is very much a step in the right direction in making broadband more widely accessible and affordable.



BUDDSODDWR I MEdWN POBLL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. Davies', written in a cursive style.

PP

Andrew Davies AM/AC

[Approved by the Minister and signed in his absence]

[Arwyddwyd a cytunwyd yn absenoldeb y Gweinidog]