

**Comment from the Ofcom Advisory Committee for Scotland  
on the Draft Annual Plan 2013/14**

ACS has commented on the plan in discussion with officers during its presentation at various meetings and points made have been taken into account, so we do not wish to reiterate these unnecessarily.

In general, the committee wishes to underline its continuing concern about social exclusion resulting from the various digital divides in Scotland. Particular concerns are the continuing challenges faced in ensuring widespread high-quality access to the internet via broadband and the provision of high quality mobile telephony across the territory.

One key point, given the referendum on Scottish independence planned for 2014, is for Ofcom to reflect this in its planning. ACS has underlined its view on several occasions that a requisite awareness of the challenges that a UK-wide system of communications regulation might face should be part of the planning process at all levels in Ofcom.

ACS is therefore pleased to note that on p.55 par.6.5 of the Annual Plan 2013/14, Ofcom's engagement with the nations includes the intention to 'contribute as appropriate to discussions about the impact on communications regulation of independence or further devolution in Scotland'.

This accords with ACS's view that this matter will be of growing importance in the coming year.

**Advisory Committee for Scotland  
21 January 2013**