

Duct and Pole Access – update on implementation timetable

11 January 2018

Following comments Ofcom received regarding the timetable for the implementation of the proposals set out in our April 2017 Duct and Pole Access (DPA) Consultation and August 2017 DPA Pricing Consultation, we are currently considering making two adjustments to our proposals.

First, our current thinking is that although BT would be under an obligation to undertake network adjustments from the date the new DPA conditions enter into force, the introduction of the financial limit for network adjustments would apply after one year, with a cost orientation obligation applying up until this point. This recognises that while BT needs time to implement new processes and procedures for Openreach funded network adjustments, BT currently has processes and procedures in place pursuant to which it currently undertakes third party communications provider funded network adjustments.

Second, we propose that the physical infrastructure access and associated obligations will enter into force after a short period to allow BT to make any administrative changes to the current reference offer which may be necessary.

Therefore, our current thinking is that:

- the physical infrastructure access obligation (draft SMP condition 2.1(d)), including the requirement to make network adjustments and any revised use rules, will enter into force a short period after publication of our statement (for example, one month) to allow for BT to make any necessary administrative changes to the current physical infrastructure access reference offer, rather than 1 April 2018;
- draft SMP conditions 7D.4, 7D.5 and 7D.6, which apply a financial limit in respect of PIA Adjustment Services, will apply from 1 April 2019, with draft SMP condition 6.4 applying to PIA Adjustment Services in the intervening period; and
- draft conditions 8.3B(b)(iii) and 8.3B(l) to (p) will still enter in to force on 1 April 2019 but will be elaborated to refer more directly to the SLC and SLG requirements and Third-Party build works (as appropriate).