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Physical Infrastructure Market Review Team
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29 January 2019

Response to Ofcom's consultation, *Physical Infrastructure Market Review*

We write in response in to your consultation, dated 2 November 2018, setting out proposals for access to BT owned ducts and poles. Arqiva is the UK's leading infrastructure and media services company operating at the heart of the mobile and broadcast communications industry. We are not a fibre provider and, therefore, do not have a *direct* interest in the provision of fibre broadband services. However, we do have a clear interest in Ofcom establishing a regulatory framework which enables and expedites UK-wide fibre roll-out, including to support next generation mobile services.

Ofcom are aware of our principal concern as it relates to access to BT ducts and poles: namely that it should extend to provide for wireless and mobile backhaul services. With that in mind, we strongly endorse its revised approach as set out in this consultation to allow access for "any use". As we have previously explained, any future initiatives to deploy 5G services will likely require a significant densification of network deployments. As a result, costs of fibre backhaul will need to be minimised to underpin any commercial case for 5G deployments. These proposals represent an important move to achieve that objective.

Other members of the value chain will be better placed to discuss elements of the detailed proposals made within the consultation.

We are, in the meantime, grateful for the collaborative approach that Ofcom has taken in developing this policy and look forward to working further with it on enabling future 5G services.

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