12th March 2014

Rt. Hon Maria Miller MP
Secretary of State
DCMS
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

Dear Secretary of State,

As you will be aware, over the last few days there has been press commentary about the UK's relative position in Europe when it comes to superfast broadband and 4G mobile networks.

This followed the Prime Minister's speech where he referenced the work that Ofcom is doing to make the optimal use of the spectrum - to meet the increasing demands for mobile data - and the work to roll out broadband networks across the UK.

We therefore thought it would be helpful to set out the latest data on the UK's performance, which indicates that we are leading the main EU nations when it comes to superfast broadband and 4G network deployment.

**Superfast broadband**

On Wednesday Ofcom published its European Broadband Scorecard, which ranks the UK within the EU5 - Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the UK. The Scorecard shows that the UK is now top for superfast broadband availability and take-up among the leading European economies. We enclose a full copy of the report.

Superfast broadband is available to 73% of households with take-up now at 19%. Since we published our last Scorecard report in 2013, the UK has overtaken Germany and Spain on both measures.
4G mobile

There is a similar healthy picture of rollout and take-up of 4G services. With the successful completion of the Ofcom 4G auction in February 2013, 4G take-up in UK is among the fastest in the world, with around 4 million people already using it.

A report by Enders Analysis published in December puts the UK top of the EU5 for 4G coverage and predicts the UK will further consolidate its leading position among the developed European nations (extract below).

![European incumbent 4G roll-out](image)

The UK has some of the most vigorous 4G competition in the world, with services provided by four different operators, soon to be joined by a fifth new entrant. As a result, the UK enjoys some of the most competitive mobile as well as broadband prices in the world.

In addition to this, 4G coverage across the UK will be near-universal by 2017, thanks to the licence obligation that requires one operator to provide 98% indoor household coverage, which means more than 99% when outdoors.

Future work

With the UK in a strong position on fixed and mobile broadband relative to its main developed European economies, there is further work underway to build on this.

We are reviewing the wholesale market for broadband access to maintain healthy levels of competition. In parallel we are working to ensure that broadband customers receive a consistently high quality of service, including faster line repairs and installations.
In wireless broadband, we are planning to free up and release further valuable chunks of spectrum for future services, already dubbed 5G.

We hope that these measures, plus other work Ofcom is conducting, will help complement work by the Government to support the UK’s position as one of the leading European digital economies.

Yours sincerely

Collette Brown

Ed Milburn