

Mike O'Brien Letter to Lord Currie

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Mike O'Brien MP  
MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND e-COMMERCE

31 January 2005

David Currie  
Chairman  
Office of Communications  
Riverside House  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
London SE1 9HA

Our reference: itucurrie

Dear David

My predecessor Stephen Timms wrote to you in December 2003 covering directions made by the Secretary of State under section 22, subsection (1), of the Communications Act 2003. These require Ofcom to provide representation on behalf of Her Majesty's Government in the UK on certain international bodies including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); the Conference of European Post and Telecommunication administrations (CEPT), and specified European Union (EU) committees concerned with radio spectrum policy.

Following this direction, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by our respective senior officials setting out the working arrangements between Government and Ofcom in preparing for international meetings and agreeing necessary UK policy lines. I understand that these arrangements have been working well.

I am now writing in the context of section 22, subsection (2) of the Communications Act 2003 to seek your formal agreement to extend the arrangements for international representation, to cover the Channel Islands, Isle of Man and British overseas territories. I understand that Ofcom has been undertaking this representative role since vesting in December 2003 and has recently prepared proposals for improving coordination between UK, overseas territories and the ITU to reflect recent changes in telecommunication legislation within the territories, which in some cases have established local independent regulators.

Department of Trade and Industry

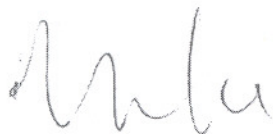
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Subject to your acceptance of this request, my officials would therefore work with yours to agree a suitable MoU formally defining the role of Ofcom in respect of representation of overseas territories and Crown dependencies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Mike O'Brien