

This is a subject that has had far too many words and not enough of the right action towards delivery.

Regrettably most of the words and decisions have not come from engineers with some knowledge of the engineering issues and how best to tackle them but from marketing and PPE types including the production of spin and misinformation which is totally unacceptable in public service.

The average download speed in urban areas is at least three times what it is in rural ones, according to a report from Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator.

The Labour government promised that everyone in the country would have broadband by 2012. Having missed that target, the Conservative government estimated that by the end of 2015 less than 1% of all premises would have access to speeds of under 2Mbps-good enough for basic internet use, but not for streaming videos. The Phase 1 superfast broadband contracts included a commitment to ensure universal availability of speeds of at least 2Mbps for every home and business in the UK - this is known as the Universal Service Commitment (USC). In Budget 2015, the Government announced that premises with speeds below 2Mbps with no alternative solution available would be given the option of a government-subsidised satellite solution which can give them access to speeds above this level, including the option of superfast speeds.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/broadband-delivery-uk>

The USC scheme was subsequently introduced in December 2015 with fixed wireless services also now supposedly available in all <2Mbps areas but administrative schemes that created and cancelled a series of obstructive application procedures minimised the number of applicants. Will our authorities take any more notice of an Obligation than they did to a Commitment. Is it surprising that MPs in rural constituencies have overloaded in-trays on this subject?

The DCMS states regarding the voucher scheme that " The scheme is available to all premises including those that are in commercially covered areas. ". See letter below.

To: [enquiries@culture.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gov.uk)

Cc:

Please tell the rest of the ministerial support team that the DCMS should consider providing practical information on the steps needed to be taken to finance and deliver a useful internet service fit for the future to a community when responding to the tax paying public. Other than cataloguing the churning of obstructive administrative schemes your letter failed to provide anything useful.

Where are the links for applying for the "BDUK supplementary scheme"?

Why does DCMS website only have links to obsolete information like

<http://www.connectionvouchers.co.uk/>

on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/broadband-delivery-uk>

I look forward to receiving a useful response from the DCMS.

<https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/OMR-Sub-2Mbps-Postcodes-text.pdf>

Sub 2Mbps Service Area Shown in Red

#### Reference

Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information Request: 4682196 to Devon CC  
Date of Request: 26 April 2016  
Date of Disclosure: 23 May 2016

d) "There is no list of postcodes that applicants are being validated against. Vouchers are available to anyone in the CDS area who experience broadband speeds of 2Mbps or less."

<http://www.b4rc.org/cdsvouchers.html>

The government has contributed to the chaos for example by :-

The failure by OFCOM to produce range of Standards for a range of levels of internet data delivery packages. The purchaser needs standards so they can compare, select and buy with confidence knowing that the minimum standards that the provider must reach without having to be an expert or spend excessive time scrutinising the small print. Such Standards need to define the guaranteed minimum speed of services available at the consumers location, monthly subscription costs, service levels, customer and technical support arrangements by phone and email and technical, operation and maintenance and compensation arrangements. OFCOM will have abdicated itself from its responsibilities to the consumer and tax payer if these minima levels are not measured and enforced by the regulator. An opportunity for the UK to lead the world has been missed. Is this because the interests of the consumer and tax payer or the voice of communities have been drowned out in government departments and at regulators by powerful lobbyists representing the telecoms industry or private near monopolies ?

The absence of such standards has obstructed public understanding of monthly costs, and terms like 'unlimited', 'up to' 'cabinet' 'exchange' 'EO' 'bits' bytes' and 'Fibre'.

The Advertising Standards Authority allowing ISP's systems implemented using the seriously speed compromised copper data circuits, to be described as 'Fibre' as in almost uncompromised by distance optical fibre, is a confusing decision against the consumers interest.

<https://www.cable.co.uk/news/two-thirds-misled-by-fibre-broadband-advertising-experts-compare-situation-to-horsemeat-scandal-700001439/>

<http://www.computing.co.uk/ctg/opinion/2455925/copper-cables-make-government-superfast-broadband-success-claims-a-joke-no-matter-how-much-ed-vazey-sidesteps-the-ftth-issue>

[https://conversation.which.co.uk/technology/broadband-speed-advertising-ed-vazey-grant-shapps/?utm\\_source=whichcouk&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=broadbandupdate19](https://conversation.which.co.uk/technology/broadband-speed-advertising-ed-vazey-grant-shapps/?utm_source=whichcouk&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=broadbandupdate19)

Documented Public Confusion below - The politicians don't do much better

<https://www.asa.org.uk/News-resources/Media-Centre/2016/ASA-signals-need-for-change-in-advertising-of-broadband-prices.aspx#.V2gHqCMrLuQ>

<https://conversation.which.co.uk/technology/broadband-up-to-speed-advertising-ed-vaizey/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-36060369>

<https://www.asa.org.uk/~media/Files/ASA/Public%20affairs/Broadband%20announcement%20briefing%20paper%20ASA.ashx>

<https://www.asa.org.uk/~media/Files/ASA/Public%20affairs/ASA%20submission%20to%20CMS%20committee.ashx>

<https://www.asa.org.uk/News-resources/Media-Centre/2013/Broadband.aspx#.V2gIiMrLuQ>

<https://www.asa.org.uk/News-resources/Media-Centre/2016/Research-into-consumer-understanding-of-broadband-speed-claims-in-ads.aspx#.V2gBziMrLuS>

[https://www.asa.org.uk/News-resources/Hot-](https://www.asa.org.uk/News-resources/Hot-Topics/~media/Files/ASA/Hot%20Topics/Broadband%20hot%20topic.ashx)

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Condoning the degrading and distortion of defined precise technical terms like 'Superfast' from 30Mbps to 24Mbps.

<http://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2014/08/lets-stop-different-uk-definitions-superfast-broadband.html>

<http://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2015/12/ofcom-redefine-ultrafast-broadband-as-300mbps.html>

<http://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2016/04/bt-openreach-trial-18mbps-fttc-broadband-speed-slow-adsl-lines.html>

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/broadband-research/scorecard/2015/European Broadband Scorecard 2015.pdf>

[http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/infrastructure/2014/IR\\_3.pdf](http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/infrastructure/2014/IR_3.pdf)

<http://www.martingeddes.com/why-broadband-speed-tests-suck/>

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2016/04/28/big\\_cities\\_still\\_lack\\_superfast\\_broadband\\_speeds/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2016/04/28/big_cities_still_lack_superfast_broadband_speeds/)

## Funding

BT fails to increase capital investment in the Openreach network for 8 years but last year announced profits of £3.17Billion in their annual report.

The telecom industry has had every opportunity to deliver the necessary infrastructure to communities.

The time has now come to empower communities to manage the creation of the necessary infrastructure to connect communities to the national networks.

The capital costs should be paid for, through a levy on the telecoms industry and internet sites based on the number of users and volume of commercial data transferred, which should be divided up and paid in proportion to group turnover.

Payment for backhaul services for community created infrastructure should be set at a breakeven return for the supplier, at a level set by the regulator - perhaps paid for by a levy on internet advertising?

## National Supervisory Body for Telecoms

There has been a market failure in delivering "fibre to the premises" services to our parishioners. If these services are to be provided through a local initiative then planners will

need information about all the options available for choosing which of the possible suppliers have the nearest located backbone switches and access networks together with cost tariffs, to best meet the parishes needs. Also of the ducts (E.G. along roads, railways, sewers etc) and routing infrastructure available and the corresponding tariffs. Specialist contractors will need to be engaged to implement these connections and distribution solutions. Can Ofcom provide the parish council and other interested parties with details of these facilities and the access networks and suppliers qualified and approved to tender for this work ?

Commercially sensitive information needs to be under the control of the national body responsible for telecom strategy and implementation. This body should be uniquely placed to be able to provide a single source for independent information about the approvals and capabilities of all suppliers and the location of the nearest infrastructure for those communities needing to implement services. E.G. All the spare capacity and capacity of dark fiber available for all purposes at different locations. The options regarding the nearest points of presence to the community for connection to the national backbone of internet infrastructure. The locations of ducts poles piping and other infrastructure that could be utilized for the community benefit. This information is essential for local authorities, communities and those planning to invest in local solutions where there has been a market failure to deliver. Has Ofcom got the capability to provide this critical public service essential for national prosperity and to maximize the benefits and returns of existing and future telecom investments ? If Ofcom is incapable of providing this information and leadership please advise as to where it can be obtained or what the government is doing to obtain it. The nation can not afford to be ignorant of its infrastructure assets. Transport, rail, water gas and electricity distribution have national strategic supervisory bodies. Why does telecommunication not have a National Supervisory body for Telecoms infrastructure in an age when it is essential ?

<http://www.fisp.org.uk/broadband-universal-service-obligationcommitment-fisp-responds-to-ofcoms-call-for-input/>

<http://www.fisp.org.uk/fisp-response-queens-speech-commitment-to-universal-service-obligation-for-broadband/>

<http://balquhiddie.net/universal-service-exemption/>

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<http://www.broadbanduk.org/2016/04/28/reviewing-the-universal-service-directive-challenges-in-including-broadband-in-its-scope/>

[http://www.ftthcouncil.eu/documents/Publications/FTTH\\_introduction\\_what\\_is\\_it\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ftthcouncil.eu/documents/Publications/FTTH_introduction_what_is_it_2016.pdf)

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/our-goals/pillar-iv-fast-and-ultra-fast-internet-access#Article>

<http://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/tag/bduk>

<http://www.computing.co.uk/ctg/news/2458826/the-right-to-fast-broadband-is-more-spin-from-a-government-unwilling-to-invest-in-technology>

[http://www.computerweekly.com/news/450296421/Broadband-providers-send-Ofcom-suggestions-on-changing-](http://www.computerweekly.com/news/450296421/Broadband-providers-send-Ofcom-suggestions-on-changing-Openreach?utm_medium=EM&asrc=EM_ERU_57284930&utm_campaign=20160517_ERU+Transmission+for+05%2F17%2F2016+%28UserUniverse%3A+2070885%29_myka-reports%40techtarget.com&utm_source=ERU&src=5510459)

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