



TELECOMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
OF THE UK WATER INDUSTRY

Supported by
Atkins Ltd.,
200 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G1 4RU.
Tel: 0141 220 2000

RESPONSE TO OFCOM'S CONSULTATION
On
COPPER RETIREMENT PROCESS FOR DETERMINING WHEN COPPER
REGULATION CAN BE REMOVED

(Supplementary consultation to the Wholesale Fixed Telecoms Market Review)

INTRODUCTION

This response is provided by the Telecommunications Association of the UK Water Industry (TAUWI) on behalf of its members:

Anglian Water Services Ltd	Severn Trent Water Ltd
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	South Staffordshire Water
Bournemouth Water	South West Water Services Ltd
Bristol Water	States of Jersey
Cambridge Water	Sutton & East Surrey Water plc
Dee Valley Water plc	Thames Water Utilities Ltd
Environment Agency	United Utilities Water plc
Essex & Suffolk Water	Affinity Water
Hartlepool Water	Wessex Water Services Ltd
Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board	Yorkshire Water Services Ltd
Welsh Water	Natural Resources Wales
Northern Ireland Water Ltd	Northumbrian Water Ltd
Scottish Water	



BACKGROUND

The Association was formed in 2004, replacing the Telecommunications Advisory Committee (TAC) which for the previous 14 years had acted as the focus for the UK Water Industry in relation to fixed and mobile communications and scanning telemetry from a technical and regulatory aspect. Over time, the scope of TAUWI has been extended to ensure its members are able to capitalise on any new opportunities resulting from emerging technologies and regulatory changes. TAUWI is chaired by Mr Bob Ward of United Utilities Ltd.

The Water Industry is a major user of Telemetry systems to monitor and control the operation of its assets. All aspects of water management, including the recovery, treatment and distribution of water, the control and monitoring of water quality and operation of flood defence systems use Telemetry to ensure compliance with statutory requirements whilst maximising operational efficiency.

The industry employs a wide range of wireline and wireless communication technologies and services to support its critical operations. These currently include PSTN, ADSL, VDSL, Satellite, UHF Radio, 2G, 3G and 4G public cellular mobile services.

This response has been circulated for review by each of the member organisations that form TAUWI, and further to this submission, members may respond individually with their own views on the consultation.

Question 1

Do you agree with our proposal to wait until after the publication of the WFTMR statement to define the circumstances in which premises can be excluded from the definition of a completed ultrafast exchange, by giving a direction under the future WFTMR SMP conditions? Please set out your reasons and supporting evidence for your response.

Response

We agree with Ofcom that they should wait until after the final decisions in the WFTMR statement to consider how to define the circumstances in which premises can be excluded from the definition of a completed ultrafast exchange and subsequently lifting the copper charge control. At this time, we would agree that the rollout of full fibre is at an early stage and therefore it is likely that there would be limited examples of circumstances where premises cannot be connected to an ultrafast exchange. Waiting until after the final WFTMR decisions will provide more time to consider the experience of fibre rollout in the Salisbury trial area and the additional 117 exchange areas, announced by Openreach in May in which they plan to have rolled out over 75% FTTP coverage by June 2021.