



17 December 2025

nexfibre response to TAR Further consultation on leased lines market analysis and various pricing issues - Telecoms Access Review 2026-31

nexfibre welcomes the opportunity to provide this response to Ofcom's further consultation on leased lines market analysis and various pricing issues - Telecoms Access Review 2026-31 (TAR).

About nexfibre

nexfibre is a wholesale fibre network operator in the UK, focussed on building and maintaining a high-quality, technologically advanced full-fibre infrastructure platform. It is a joint venture between InfraVia Capital Partners, Liberty Global and Telefónica and is financed with £4.5 billion of equity and debt investment, and is, therefore, well-capitalised and well-positioned to become a long-term, national scale, sustainable competitor to Openreach. As of 30 September 2025, nexfibre's network passed 2.44 million premises ready for service (RFS) and is expected to reach 2.5 million by the end of 2025.

Stable and effective regulatory framework to deliver sustainable competition

We welcome Ofcom's proposed overall approach in the TAR which ensures a stable regulatory framework and pricing continuity. A stable regulatory framework is essential for both network operators and investors. It is fundamental to ensure that the 2026-2031 regulatory period does not undermine the framework to date which enabled the emergence of competition in this market. The upcoming regulatory period ought to enable the continued investment and effective establishment of sustainable competition.

One of the key elements in ensuring this is Ofcom's continued assessment and scrutiny of BT Openreach pricing schemes and behaviour. BT has used its position in the market to introduce unfair pricing schemes and other measures which harm competitors and could damage competition in the long term. One of the key elements that enables the emergence of sustainable competition in the fixed market is the effective regulation of PIA. The uptake of PIA is one of the big successes of the WFTMR. Getting PIA regulation right is vital for the long-term health of the market, this includes ensuring that there is no undue discrimination by BT, and that pricing and allocation of costs does not create lack of fairness and burden on competitors.

Simplified lead-in PIA charges

Ofcom's proposal in paragraph 4.58 of Volume 4 of the TAR consultation document regarding the structure of simplified lead-in PIA charges was correct, both based in evidence and analysis. We recommend that Ofcom revert to its original proposal rather than backtrack on it following this mini consultation. This new revised position is based on an erroneous analysis by Openreach, which, if adopted would lead to considerable over-recovery by Openreach

running into millions of pounds by 2030/31, while simultaneously placing equally considerable costs on the altnets.

Aside from the factual and analytical incorrectness of the Openreach approach, placing the disproportionate cost burden on the altnets during this crucial regulatory period, prior to sustainable competition being established, is contrary to the policy objectives of both Ofcom and Government.

Please see **enclosed** a report by SPC Network on behalf of nexfibre which sets out our position on the issues concerning simplified lead-in PIA charges proposal as per your further consultation document.