

Dear OFCOM

Re Extension of 4G Mobile

Mobile spectrum technology is increasingly important for both business and social communication. It is therefore essential that the awarding of future 4G contracts are framed to ensure at least 98% of the population of Wales have access to this technology.

If OFCOM is planning to seek tenders for four contracts, at least two of them must insist on this 98% coverage to ensure healthy competition for a near universal service. If there were only a single operator for a widespread geographical area, there would be little incentive to provide more than a bare minimum service.

I would hope that the awarding of any contracts that do not stipulate this breadth of coverage have within them a public interest clause – equivalent to a Section 106 clause in Planning Consents so that the easier, more lucrative lines would be expected to contribute to the cost of more topographically challenging or Not Spots areas which do not even benefit from the 2G spectrum provision.

Yours sincerely

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