

Keith Davies AC/AM

Llanelli

Via Email

Your Ref:
Our Ref: KD/MT/OfCconsult
26 March 2012

To whom it may concern,

Re:Ofcom Spectrum Proposals

I welcome the opportunity to feedback to the current consultation on the auction of spectrum, which will make 4G spectrum available to my constituents, Wales and the rest of the UK.

Historically, the availability of mobile signals and access to broadband services have always been poorer in Wales due to issues of rurality and geography. I would strongly urge Ofcom to consider setting coverage requirements for each nation within the United Kingdom.

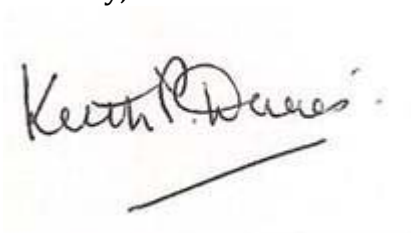
Whilst 2G services have improved within Wales, there are still issues with coverage. Despite the awarding of 3G licences several years ago, many areas even in places like Llanelli are still without coverage. That is why it is important that, as we move towards even faster technology, Ofcom must consider regionalised licences where incipient market failures exist to ensure closure of the digital divide.

There are already instances where mast sharing has improved coverage in rural areas. However, it can also create not-spots where some areas are difficult to cover. Ofcom must ensure that coverage is enhanced along major routes and train lines so that commuters can benefit from service improvements.

I believe that mobile coverage should be as widely available as possible. 4G will bring about a tremendous social change, allowing service users to access a wealth of data and entertainment services from smartphones, laptops and the new iPad for example. In that respect is not unreasonable to expect operators to provide 4G services to reach 98% of the population even in Wales, which would bring 4G coverage in line with access to terrestrial television and radio services.

With Best Wishes,

Yours Sincerely,



Keith Davies AC/AM



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