



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

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29 March 2012

Dear Vicki

Thank you for your letter regarding Ofcom's consultation on the proposals for the 4G auction.

As you know, the Committee recently concluded a short inquiry into Broadband Infrastructure in Scotland and our report has now been published.

Our report refers to the coverage obligations for 4G licences, and I hope that Ofcom will be able to take account of our comments. In particular, the Committee is concerned that Scotland fully benefits from the 4G auction. In this regard, the Committee urges Ofcom to ensure that the 4G licensees will be required to meet the same challenging coverage targets for the Scottish population as they will for the UK population. The Committee, therefore, provides its full backing to the Scottish Government's position that coverage obligations should be set at a minimum of 98% of the population and for this to apply to each region within Scotland.

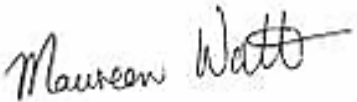
The Committee did not specifically address the issue of whether at least one 4G licence holder should be obligated to match the coverage of 2G services post-MIP. However, the Committee is concerned about the suggestion that the MIP and 4G auction are not sufficiently co-ordinated.

The Committee is concerned about the possibility that public subsidy could be allocated through the MIP to areas where the private sector itself could be expected to deliver developments through the later 4G auction. The Committee has agreed to seek details from BDUK about how it intends to allocate MIP funding and, specifically, whether its map of not-spots takes into account the uplift likely to be achieved by the 4G auction. The Committee would be interested in any comments that Ofcom would wish to make in relation to how it is seeking to co-ordinate the 4G auction with BDUK and the MIP.

I hope that the Committee's report is of interest and I look forward to receiving your comments in due course.

I will send a copy of this letter to Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment in the Scottish Government, for his information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maureen Watt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**MAUREEN WATT MSP
CONVENER**