

Although the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure in Belfast does not intend to respond to the full consultation we would however like you to take our views on board in respect of Question 6.1

***Question 6.1: Do you have any comments on the proposal to include in one of the 800 MHz licences an obligation to serve by the end of 2017 an area in which 95% of the UK population lives, while providing a sustained downlink speed of 2Mbps with a 90% probability of indoor reception? Do you think there is another way of specifying a coverage obligation that would be preferable?***

***Our response is that coverage obligations for services must apply to the devolved nations. That should mean that, for example a 95% next generation broadband coverage target must apply to Northern Ireland as a nation and not just a UK average.***

Note - we understand that the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) will be providing a comprehensive response to the consultation as it is relevant to the themes in their 2011/15 Telecoms Action Plan on which they themselves are consulting