

Mobile & Auctions team,
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London
SE1 9HA

31st May

Proposals for the award of 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz spectrum

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Forum of Private Business is a not-for-profit organisation which supports small and medium-sized businesses throughout the UK. We provide our members with a range of services, including representation of their views to decision-makers in Westminster and Brussels.

I am writing in response to the consultation on the future of mobile competition.

We welcome Ofcom's proposals to preserve a competitive four-player market for next generation mobile broadband. The award of this spectrum is vital to supporting the UK's economic growth and preserving a competitive market.

Small businesses are increasingly dependent on access to high speed broadband to deliver innovative and competitive services. Competitive spectrum allocation would ensure mobile operators are incentivised to invest in network expansion and drive down prices for businesses across the UK.

Conversely, in the absence of measures to promote competition, market consolidation would risk higher prices and further divestment from parts of the country with already poor mobile broadband coverage. This would particularly benefit small businesses based in rural areas.

Therefore, due to the benefits it will bring to small businesses, we welcome the decision to award the 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz spectrum and Ofcom's commitment to retaining competition in the mobile network industry.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Orford
Chief Executive
Forum of Private Business