

## Annex 4

# Consultation questions

*Question 1 When do you consider it would be timely and efficient for next generation access investment to take place in the UK?*

**From a practical viewpoint in the current conditions, at least 5 years and probably longer in rural areas.**

*Question 2 Do you agree with the principles outlined for regulating next generation access?*

**Your principles are probably the optimum possible, however the prospect of achieving any realistic NGA solutions without significant government subsidy seems very remote indeed.**

*Question 3 How should Ofcom reflect risk in regulated access terms?*

**It is doubtful if risk should be considered at this stage before further developments have occurred and the funding mechanisms have been defined.**

*Question 4 Do you agree with the need for both passive and active access remedies to promote competition?*

**Again from a practical viewpoint in existing circumstances there seems little likelihood of any further competition except possibly in the exchanges or in new-build situations.**

*Question 5 Do you consider there to be a role of direct regulatory or public policy intervention to create artificial incentives for earlier investment in next generation access?*

**No. Apart from the opening of access to third parties, regulation does not appear to improve the situation from the viewpoint of the consumer who still have sub-standard broadband facilities. Unless there is a national subsidy, as opposed to complex self-financing interference, regulation seems unlikely to benefit the consumer nor to encourage high risk private investment in the current circumstances.**