

Name and title under which you would like this response to appear:

Name Withheld 16

Representing:

Self

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

Next generation access investment should take place as a matter of urgency.

In particular, those areas in the UK such as Milton Keynes, where sub-standard cabling was used by the incumbent, and are outlined by the government as key expansion areas for growth, should be given priority over other areas, for fixed next generation local access networks.

Large urban areas in Milton Keynes are without real broadband speeds above 2 mb downstream, because of the length of the local loop. This problem must be solved at the local loop level which should mean urgent investment in upgrading to allow next gen network access speeds to serve consumers and business, well into the future. As a minimum, 10m/b downstream for all users - regardless of distance from the exchange, should be a priority for at least all metro/urban areas in such key growth areas as Milton Keynes.

In areas where there is a broadband hybrid-fibre coax network in place, that network should be extended with next generation downstream speeds in mind. This approach would ensure a more platform-neutral and non-discriminatory method of investing in next generation access, and would prevent duplication of fixed next gen access networks.

It would also serve to provide an extra layer of competition to BT Openreach, which still has monopoly over much of the fixed local loop market.

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

Broadly agree, though a more interventionist approach needs to be taken to ensure incumbents and vertically integrated operators do not abuse their position with regard to fair and non-discriminatory access to the next generation access network. Lessons need to be learned from the Local Loop Unbundling process, which is far from satisfactory for many thousands of consumers nationwide.

Those areas in the UK such as Milton Keynes, where sub-standard cabling was used by the incumbent, and are outlined by the government as key expansion areas for growth, should be given priority over other areas, for fixed next generation local access networks. The case of Milton Keynes is interesting. The existing BT owned broadband cable franchise which was forcibly leased to Virgin Media (Formerly

NTL) by regulators - should now be forcibly removed from BT's control. The distortion caused by this lease arrangement in the local broadband and telecoms market, means that any future upgrade of the existing network to next generation standards, is unlikely. The failure of the market in this case cannot be underestimated.

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

no views

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

agree more with the need for active access remedies for the reasons above.

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?:

As outlined in answers 1 and 2, examples of areas like Milton Keynes, which are designated for key growth, need to be given urgent priority attention to upgrade or replace existing legacy analogue fixed local loop access and CATV networks with those that are ready for next generation access. Minimum speeds for next gen access networks need to be mandated at the public policy level to avoid the problems encountered during ADSL and in particular RADSL introduction in the UK.

Incentives should be given to existing operators of legacy fixed broadband access networks such as hybrid fibre coax networks, in order that they can be upgraded from 'analogue' areas or even extended into new areas as appropriate.

Additional comments: