

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

Name Withheld 2

Representing:

Self

Organisation (if applicable):

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

As soon as possible. We've had copper (or aluminium) in/above the ground since the dawn of the telecomms industry over 100 years ago. And the next 100 years will bring about even greater changes. And we cannot assume that "wireless" technology will be accepted due to possible health issues. So a next generation backbone needs to be built.

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

The only reason to regulate NGA networks is to ensure that the whole country is covered, rather than allowing specific companies to upgrade certain parts (ie. the higher population area's where profits will be maximised). It really has to be everywhere.

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

The risk is only going to be dependant on the cost of building this...and the longer it is left, the higher the cost. Fact is: Once you have ADSL broadband, you won't go back to dial up. Once you have cable, you won't go back to ADSL....so the only risk is that the cost might be higher than some companies might be able to afford, before they can start realising a profit on their investment. (such as Channel Tunnel !!)

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

I'm not so sure that "competition" is useful in this case. At the end of the day, it'll be the population that pays for this, so we may as well get it right first time. A competitive tender might drive down the price, but at what cost, if it has to be dug up in 5 years time due to head in the sand cost-cutting.

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?:

Am not so sure that incentives need to be created....but if the telecomms firms don't do something soon, then UK will be left behind...just as it has been with HD TV (where satellite delivers and Freeview doesn't) and DAB (which uses MPEG2 and not AAC+). So, some firm prodding from Govt would probably help

Additional comments:

OFCOM needs to get Govt. backing for upgrading the entire telecomms infrastructure....not so we can be a leader, but just so we can "catch up" with Japan, USA, Germany, etc. Otherwise, we'll be losing out, both domestically and business wise. A fast, reliable 21st century broadband system, implemented within the next 5 years would certainly help EVERYONE in UK and maybe in time for the Olympics???