

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

Name Withheld 6

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?:

Immediately.

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

Yes. Ofcom will need to regulate new infrastructure. On the poor past and current performance of the dominant ex-monopoly BT, whose roll-out of broadband was particularly sluggish and remains unfinished, regulation will need to be maintained to protect hard-won competition.

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

It has been established that there is enormous demand for higher-speed products at fair prices. Therefore there is little real risk for companies investing in new infrastructure which effectively and appropriately addresses that demand.

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

Yes. As is the case presently with broadband, dominant infrastructure providers, particularly BT, will attempt to leverage their positions to the detriment of competition, as has happened in the current broadband market. It is absurd, for example, that in order to receive service from a broadband supplier, which is not BT, I must continue to pay BT a monthly fee for a voice package I never use. At present, I am forced to add £11 to my monthly broadband charge for "line rental". I hope that this sham will not continue under the new infrastructure.

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?:

Not under the present circumstances, and certainly not in the regulator or government cannot receive a full return on its investment with no risk.

Additional comments: