Supporting Innovation and Technology in the Sector
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Rural First, Glasgow
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Ofcom Priorities for Communications Infrastructure 2019

1. **Better broadband and mobile** – wherever you are: helping to encourage investment and improve broadband and mobile coverage across the country, so everyone benefits from the services they deliver.

2. **Fairness for customers**: ensuring that broadband, phone and TV customers, particularly vulnerable people, are treated fairly.

3. Supporting consumers and industry through Brexit: looking after the interests of UK consumers and the communications sector as we exit the EU.

4. **Strong, secure networks**: working with communications companies to help ensure their networks are strong, secure and protected against outages or cyberattacks.

5. Supporting UK broadcasting: helping our broadcasters to thrive, and ensuring TV and radio audiences are well served by high-quality programmes.
5G / Edge Innovation for Consumers – transforming the AR experience
How innovation can help improve rural coverage

Technical Innovations: Emerging technical can reduce cost and extend reach. Ofcom will continue to look at ways it can facilitate this e.g. our work to license-exempt self-installed mobile repeaters.

Collaborative Measures: Ofcom’s Advice to Government on Options for Improving Mobile Coverage identified other potential levers:

- Public subsidy to fund further rollout of coverage.
- Infrastructure sharing between operators.
- Further easing of planning barriers.

We also considered rural roaming and concluded that the surest way to deliver benefits through such an approach would be collaborative arrangements between operators.
These are revolutionary times: possibly leading to an expanding universe of players.
Network Slicing & Multi-purpose Networks – the future for MVNOs?
A holistic approach to future-proof connectivity along rail and roads

Better understanding of market inhibitors, working alongside Government, developing appropriate regulation

- Synergies
  - Connectivity to roads, rail, remote areas
  - Operational rail, consumer broadband, autonomous cars
- Optimal use of resources
  - Programmable networks and dynamic allocation of resources (bandwidth, power, capacity)
  - Spectrum sharing
Recent activity to support Innovation and Universality of Service

- Consultation on the 3.6 GHz/700 MHz auction (statement later this year)
- Consultation on increased sharing at 1.8 GHz and 2.3 GHz guard bands and 3.8-4.2 GHz, and access to mobile spectrum
- Published ‘Supporting the expanding role of wireless innovation in UK industry’ ‘verticals’ discussion paper.
- Plan to hold a series of workshops in coming months so we can take their views into account when developing policy
- Universal Service Obligation Assignment (BT, KCOM)
- Blockchain PoC for Number Portability and Anti-spoofing
- Consultation on universal access to Ducts and Poles
- 5G & Fibre City roundtables with MNOs and third parties
- Security & Resilience – TBEST and NIS
Impact of Innovation and new Technology on Regulation – Key Themes

- Competition / Innovation / Trust
- New service providers – more SPs than vendors?
- Edge Networks
- Multi-Access including Space
- Security Frameworks and Certification
- Need for a wider ecosystem
- Platforms
- Algorithms
- Convergence
Any questions?