

From: Darren Johnson
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To: Digital Britain Report Feedback
Subject: Letter - Digital Britain report

Green Party of England and Wales
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Dear Sir

FOR PUBLICATION

In responding to the Digital Britain report the Green Party calls on Government to ensure that Ofcom awards spectrum with consideration of the environment and of energy use. This would imply not only allowing but requiring the sharing of base stations, when it is sensible to do so [Action 6d]. In order to meet stringent carbon emission reductions duplication of energy intensive equipment should be avoided, where this is possible.

The energy saved would depend on the radio technologies deployed but as most of the energy in a mobile network is used in the base station - of which only a proportion is dependent on traffic volume - the reduction would be significant. In the short term, operators should be required to reduce energy by sharing base stations at times of low demand (i.e. at night, and in rural areas).

The award of television spectrum at 800MHz [Action 6b] presents an opportunity to make much larger savings. Mobile operators should be required to build new infrastructure through a partnership, making the resulting super-network available for any service provider to access. Competition in services could be maintained and energy savings would benefit the operators, consumers and most of all the environment.

In a different frequency band at 900MHz discussions are ongoing in order to share the limited spectrum amongst the operators in the most equitable way [Action 6a]. Rather than divide the band in to ever smaller chunks, which could require each to have separate base station equipment, government should direct Ofcom to ensure that the solution that is developed is an energy efficient one. This could be done by sharing the spectrum or requiring existing operators to allow access for others.

Yours sincerely

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Green Party spokesperson on trade & industry

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