

From: Peter Curnow-Ford [mailto:peter@bluenowhere.net]
Sent: 11 March 2009 10:24
To: Digital Britain Report Feedback
Subject: USO - Digital Britain Report

Dear Lord Carter,

As Chairman of an organisation leading the way forward in the deployment of 'Wireless Broadband' where I use wireless to denote technologies other than mobile or satellite (e.g. WiMAX, WiFi, Fixed Wireless) it is of great concern that the current draft report appears to highlight 2 specific technologies - cellular and satellite.

OCFOM has long championed technology neutral as the way forward with regard to spectrum release and use and it would seem appropriate that the same path is taken by the Digital Britain Report, ie the term wireless is used to denote "mobile, cellular, satellite, WiMAX, WiFi" and that all providers of such technologies be able to access the USO obligation.

"access the USO obligation" - as not all service providers are of equal size and certainly do not have SMP (Significant Market Power) is it possible to consider that where appropriate that a Service Provider who would normally have a USO, be allowed to engage a third party who has the most efficient technology and service provision to meet its obligations?

To make a USO and continue to enforce an incumbent model' would it seem drive the UK further in the direction that the US now finds itself in, ie 2 dominant providers who today cannot even achieve an 'up to 8Mbps' service for the bulk of their customers. The US government now finds it is fighting a rear guard action to try and circumvent this duopoly (Verizon and AT&T) by launching a BB fund aimed at smaller organisations.

Finally some press links from our current Mobile WiMAX network trials in Maidstone:-

WiMAX and Maidstone hit the Channel 4 News at lunchtime today and should be on again at 7pm tonight. It can also be watched on the Channel 4 website, its in the 2nd half of the program (Channel 4 News, Nov 20th 12pm. - <http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1529573111>

A clip from the Public Safety trial , by Meridian TV - http://www.itvlocal.com/meridian/?player=MER_HomePage_15&void=237889

New technology has been installed in Maidstone, which allows people to surf the net in the town centre.

< <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/england/7474415.stm> >

best regards,

Peter Curnow-Ford
Chairman

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