

**Westminster eForum policy conference:  
Priorities for broadband and mobile connectivity in the UK**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*



**WESTMINSTER  
eFORUM**

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing the future for digital connectivity and the shape of the broadband and mobile sector in the UK**  
*Challenges and opportunities for providers | The pace of network infrastructure and software development | M&A activity and implications | Assessing prospects for delivery of connectivity policy targets*  
**Umayr Loan**, Director, Economics, KPMG  
**Heather Thompson**, Senior Audit Manager, National Audit Office  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 **The way forward for the Shared Rural Network**  
**Bryn Jones**, SRN Director, Digital Mobile Spectrum Limited
- 9.55 **Key issues for the delivery of mobile connectivity**  
*Timescale and targets | Tackling planning permission barriers | Proposed market consolidation | Sector collaboration | 6G and use of AI in 5G-Advanced | Ensuring a resilient and secure network | Priorities for international collaboration and knowledge exchange*  
**Professor Dimitra Simeonidou**, Director, Smart Internet Lab, University of Bristol  
**Yue Wang**, Chair, Artificial Intelligence Expert Working Group, UK Telecoms Innovation Network  
**Lorik Sekiraga**, Senior Regulatory Advisor, Wiggin  
**Councillor Susan McDonnell**, Portfolio Holder for Customer Services, Digital and Procurement, Durham County Council  
Senior representative, infrastructure
- 10.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **Priorities for regulation of the digital connectivity sector**  
*Delivery of the broadband USO | Information for consumers | Priorities for ensuring consumer price protection*  
**Lindsey Fussell**, Group Director for Networks and Communications, Ofcom  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Supporting the delivery of UK-wide broadband**  
*Practicalities of the broadband USO | Reassessing functionality of programme design | Alternative options for broadband delivery to hardest-to-reach premises | Strategies for ensuring equal access to broadband connectivity*  
**Richard Wainer**, Policy and Public Affairs Director, Networks, BT
- 11.50 **Options for overcoming barriers to broadband delivery in hard-to-reach areas**  
*Way forward for the implementation of Project Gigabit | Alternative strategies for broadband provision in hard-to-reach areas | Alternative and emerging delivery platforms including satellite broadband*  
**Ceren Clulow**, Programme Director, Connecting Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire County Council  
**Tom Rigg**, Chief Operating Officer, Broadband for the Rural North  
Senior representative, internet service provider
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **'Next steps for delivery of Project Gigabit'**  
**Martyn Taylor**, Chief Commercial Officer, Building Digital UK  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster eForum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Peter van Gelder**, Director, Westminster eForum