

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

Timing: Morning, Monday, 18th March 2024

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



**WESTMINSTER
eFORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Chair to be announced
- 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**
Chair to be announced
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Chair to be announced
- 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**
Chair to be announced
Alice Burgess, Senior Researcher, Westminster eForum