

Westminster eForum Keynote Seminar:

Priorities for Broadband in the UK: innovation, inclusion and competition

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 26th February 2015

Venue: Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Meg Hillier MP, Member, Public Accounts Committee
- 9.05 - 9.15 **UK broadband: market trends and infrastructure development**
Dr Matt Yardley, Partner, Analysys Mason
- 9.15 - 9.55 **Digital inclusion: progress and future strategy**
Following Ofcom's Citizens and Communications Services report should further measures should be introduced to ensure the benefits of broadband technology are felt across society? How has access to broadband in rural areas improved and what needs to happen next - what are the priorities, and what is the latest thinking on practicalities, funding and innovative ways forward? Have Government targets worked in putting Britain on track to have the best broadband network in Europe, and what can be learnt for the future direction of policy in this area? With internet banking, online commerce and access to government services now part of daily lives for consumers and businesses, perspectives on next steps to help those left out get online and access the benefits. How far have initiatives from private enterprise, such as Barclays Digital Eagles, helped certain groups - particularly the elderly - go online and what more needs to be done going forward? What implications does the continued rollout of superfast broadband have for the property market, and housing associations and private developers, as buyers and tenants factor communications services into their property decisions?
Alex Pratt, Chair, LEP Network Management Board
Tristan Wilkinson, Associate, Digital Citizens
Questions and comments from the floor with **Dr Matt Yardley**, Partner, Analysys Mason
- 9.55 - 10.05 **Meeting the service and accessibility needs of broadband customers**
Matthew Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Broadband Stakeholder Group
- 10.05 - 11.00 **Service development: demand trends, priorities and innovation**
An update on progress on 5G and ultra-fast - what will they mean for businesses and private consumers, and what opportunities do they open up for service providers? With much of the UK already receiving high broadband speeds, what are the implications for the market of varying service priorities between different groups of businesses and domestic consumers in terms of the speed, reliability and other factors that they require? How can policy and industry practice support broadband as an aid to the growth of small as well as large businesses? Where does the UK stand in relation to economic benefit - both domestically and in global markets - from innovation in this area, and how well is the investment and regulatory environment keeping pace?
Ker Anderson, Head of Mobile, CityFibre
Graham Louth, Partner, Aetha Consulting
Louise Lancaster, Head of Regulatory & Government Affairs, UK Broadband
Craig Tillotson, Panel Member, Communications Consumer Panel
Dr Antony Rix, Principal Consultant, Wireless Communications, The Technology Partnership (TTP)
Questions and comments from the floor with **Matthew Evans**, Chief Executive Officer, Broadband Stakeholder Group
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Meg Hillier MP, Member, Public Accounts Committee
- 11.05 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Best, Chairman, House of Lords Communications Committee
- 11.35 - 12.00 **The strategy for broadband delivery**
Chris Townsend, Chief Executive, BDUK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **The landscape for delivery: competition, value and regulation**
In light of the considerable progress being made with deployment, and with broadband now being positioned as the fourth utility, what is needed for speed and deployment targets to be met, and are these targets sufficiently ambitious? How well are regulatory structures and relationships with government supporting ISPs and other market players in growing the broadband market in a way that serves their long term business aims and the interests of customers in all parts of the UK? Is the UK broadband market offering value for money for customers, how well is the competitive environment functioning and what impact have new entrants and new marketing approaches, as well as the continued growth of service bundling, affected the landscape? How might the regulatory framework need to adapt, particularly in light of the increasing significance of mobile services?
Julian Ashworth, Director, Group Industry Policy, BT Group
Alistair Law, Head of UK Policy, Sky
Daniel Butler, Head of Public Affairs, Virgin Media
Iain Wood, Public Affairs Manager, TalkTalk Group
Paul Morris, Head of Government Affairs, Vodafone
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster eForum closing remarks**
Lord Best, Chairman, House of Lords Communications Committee
Amy Cutter, Associate Producer, Westminster eForum