

Dame Melanie Dawes

Chief Executive

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The Rt Hon Nadine Dorries MP  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
By email

16 February 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Your predecessor wrote to me in July 2021 to ask Ofcom to share its thinking on aspects of the mobile sector, including mobile spectrum, to inform the Government's Wireless Infrastructure Strategy. We are providing our preliminary view at this stage and plan to provide further input later this year as we reach conclusions on our future regulatory approach to this sector.

Ofcom shares the Government's ambition to ensure that the UK has the wireless infrastructure it requires to meet connectivity needs by 2030. The importance of reliable internet access to consumers and businesses has never been more apparent, both across the UK and globally. As technology improves, new use cases appear, and demand for data continues to grow, our digital infrastructure will need to adapt to meet customer needs. Alongside these trends in technology and consumer demand, we could also see significant changes in how customers buy mobile services, and how these services are delivered – with the possibility of an increased role for companies beyond the mobile network operators in providing networks, selling mobile internet access and providing online services.

We recently published discussion papers on our [future approach to mobile markets](#) and [meeting future demand for mobile data](#). These papers set out our initial views on the trends that may impact competition and investment in mobile networks and services over the coming decade, how the market can continue to deliver the connectivity that consumers and businesses will need, spectrum use and how we can ensure our regulatory framework remains agile in the face of an evolving market. These papers should be read alongside previous publications, such as our [spectrum management strategy for the 2020s](#), which articulates Ofcom's approach to spectrum management and to ensuring that framework remains fit for purpose through a period of significant change.

We have used the evidence and analysis from these papers to answer the questions your department has asked about future wireless connectivity needs, market developments and spectrum. The enclosed annex sets out our initial response to these. We are keen to engage in further discussion as your teams develop the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy and as we receive industry responses to our recent publications.

I know that Ofcom colleagues will support your officials as your Strategy evolves, and we will share relevant analysis and conclusions from our own work where appropriate. This will enable government and Ofcom to present a coordinated strategic approach to the mobile sector – helping to drive competition, innovation, and investment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Dawes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Melanie Dawes**