

Deputy First Minister
and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities
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In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



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Dear Vicki

Thank you for your letters of 4 June 2014 and 4 August 2014 providing me with an update on Ofcom's position with regards to the Annual License Fees for 900 MHz and 1800 MHz spectrum and notification of publication of Ofcom's further consultation on this matter.

As outlined in the Scottish Government's original consultation response of 14 January 2014, we continue to hold the view that conditions conducive to mobile operators' investment in infrastructure must be favourable and that any factors which could have unintended consequences on the level of investment – in particular, investment in the most rural areas – are of concern to us. As such, I'm encouraged to hear that the revised proposals would result in lower overall fees than those originally proposed. I urge Ofcom to consider the issues outlined in our consultation response in its final decision-making on this matter and I look forward to publication of the decision in due course.

In the meantime, my officials would welcome a further discussion on the license fees and how they relate to our policy interests. I invite you to contact Harry Emambocus in the Digital Directorate to take forward this discussion (harry.emambocus@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Nicola Sturgeon

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