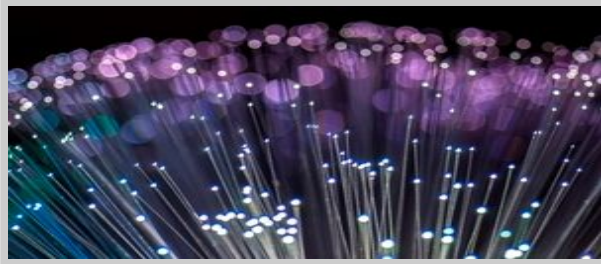


Fibre, Fibre Everywhere and nor a drop to drink¹



After a day of no water following a local water shortage, my children seemed unperturbed by “nor any drop to drink”, but heaven help me if the wifi drops there is nothing to becalm that ship! Good news for them, then that today the UK Government have announced *The Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review (FTIR)*² a long term digital connectivity strategy, at the Royal Welsh Show. Central to the Government’s strategy is a full fibre broadband and 5G future for all.

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (Revised NPPF 2) also released on 24th July 2018 states the importance of connectivity for future development proposals being presented by developers. The Consultation Draft states: “ Advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social wellbeing. Planning policies and decisions should **support** the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections. Policies should set out how high quality digital infrastructure, providing access to services from a range of providers, is expected to be delivered and upgraded over time; and should **prioritise full fibre connections to existing and new developments** (as these connections will, in almost all cases, provide the optimum solution).

Future proofing of residential and commercial developments therefore is vital and even promises of investment of 5G connectivity are already behind the curve. Dobson-Grey are presently working with national home builders and commercial developers to provide them with strategic and retrofitted fibre

¹ *Water, water everywhere, Nor any drop to drink. Lines from “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, where a sailor on a becalmed ship, is surrounded by salt water that he cannot drink.

²

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727889/Future_Telecoms_Infrastructure_Review.pdf

installations of 10G. Smarter building by developers means for an easier life for all, allowing for management of people, buildings and even cities.

So what does today's announcement mean. What is a full fibre future?

- Cost of rolling out fibre broadband to be slashed
- Remote rural areas prioritised for funding
- Stage set for full fibre switchover and the end of copper
- Increased access to spectrum for innovative 5G services

Hard-to-reach rural areas would get priority for new fixed broadband and 5G mobile connections as part of new measures proposed in a UK-wide plan for telecommunications.

It proposes the changes that are needed to give the majority of the UK population access to 5G, connect 15 million premises to full fibre broadband by 2025, and provide full fibre broadband coverage across all of the UK by 2033. Full fibre infrastructure is vital to underpin 5G coverage.

At its heart is an emphasis on greater consumer choice and initiatives to promote quicker rollout and an eventual full switch over from copper to fibre.

The new approach is aimed at driving large-scale commercial investment in the fixed and wireless networks that are vital for the UK to remain globally competitive in a digital world. The UK has only 4% full fibre connections and lags behind many of our key competitors Spain (71%), Portugal (89%) France (c.28% and increasing quickly).

Full fibre networks are faster, more reliable, and more affordable to operate than than copper-based networks. 5G will deliver faster and better mobile broadband, and enable new applications in industry sectors like manufacturing, health and transport.

The Internet of Things (IoT), the interconnection via the Internet of computing devices embedded in everyday objects, enabling them to send and receive data, is leading every household to not only demand, but require better connectivity. Dobson-Grey are working with one of the world's leading telecommunications providers to facilitate a future for developers and home builders which can actually pay the developer for new connections, but also provides a service in 4-5 days for their consumer's connections. No more 6 week lead in times!

In the following months we will see the Government publish consultations on legislative changes to streamline wayleaves and mandate fibre connections in new builds. The conclusions of the Review will also form the basis of the government's Statement of Strategic Priorities (SSP) to Ofcom, setting out the

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strategic objectives and outcomes that the regulator must have regard to in the exercise of its regulatory functions.

If you are Interested in finding out more about 10G fibre technology contact Dobson-Grey for more information on retrofit and strategic fibre roll out for commercial and residential developments on 01789 298006/info@dobson-grey.co.uk and the incentive packages available so whilst you may suffer the trials of the Ancient Mariner as the temperatures continue to soar, at least you will not suffer the moans from customers, staff or children due to lack of connectivity!

For Info Dobson-Grey Ltd are an RICS Regulated multi disciplinary Real Estate Consultancy providing support to national and international clients throughout the UK. Our highly experienced team of professionals and dedicated personnel work directly with you at all stages of the project or development process, from Real Estate identification, financial and physical feasibility and risk assessment through to supporting and overseeing planning, design, construction safety, programming and budgeting.

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