

Your response

Magrathea are delighted to see many of our current areas of concern listed in Ofcom's proposed annual plan for 2019/20. In particular we would like to express interest in the following projects:

Narrowband and Call Termination Review

We believe it is critical at this stage of wide-spread IP migration to review the narrowband market, with particular attention on access conditions and transit solutions, to ensure wholesale solutions remain competitive in the future. It is our opinion that the current regulation of FTR is providing insufficient safeguards for a competitive environment and we have previously made submissions in this regard.

Number Portability

Magrathea have been involved for many years in the campaign to improve number portability, we are actively involved in the current project to trial new solutions and would urge Ofcom to ensure that all relevant parties are represented in the working groups to ensure the final outcome will address all the issues that have been reported in the last few years. We also hope that Ofcom will take into account the problems that will not be solved, regardless of the technology used, when it comes to compliance and regulatory matters which hinder operations today.

Review of Interconnection

We very much welcome the review of IP interconnection, particularly through this transition period as we migrate to an all IP network. However, we note that any change to regulation is unlikely to come into effect until April 2021 which we feel is too far in the future to protect the providers and networks that are currently trying to compete in this turbulent and unregulated market place. Magrathea have raised concerns on this topic during previous narrowband market reviews.

Single Fixed Telecoms Market Review

Once again, we welcome this review particularly in light of the Openreach work underway to cease WLR products. We imagine this to be a great opportunity for wider industry to contribute to planning the future of telephony products and services available to consumers thus widening competition and enabling innovation.

We currently have concerns that until we are truly 'fully fibre' there are parts of the UK that will suffer from lack of competition and reduced quality of service – specifically where ISDN is withdrawn but fibre is not available.

Testing a new approach to improve UK telephone number management

The blockchain initiative is a considerable step forward in the search to resolve many of the complaints our clients and others in the industry have raised. Once again, we think it is critical that a wide range of industry is represented so that all areas of concern can be addressed and tested against the proposed new technology.