

Your response

About techUK

techUK represents the companies and technologies that are defining today the world that we will live in tomorrow. In a very real sense techUK represents the future.

At the heart of tech in the UK is an ecosystem of 270,000 companies producing digital technologies, products and services. From east to west, north and south, from enterprise class organisations to established medium-sized businesses, growing small businesses and an exciting generation of tech start-ups: the UK is a hotbed of tech talent and techUK exists to represent the sector in its entirety.

Our role as techUK is to ensure that we seize the potential for good and address the disruptive new challenges that change and innovation always present.

We work to understand the opportunities that technology provides; to support the companies and innovators that can realise those opportunities. This underpins our simple vision to ensure that tech is good for the UK, the UK is good for tech and that tech is good for people.

techUK response to the consultation

techUK welcomes the opportunity to review and comment on Ofcom's proposed Annual Plan for 2019/20. This is an important guide to Ofcom's work priorities which helps us inform and engage with our members. We look forward to working pragmatically and collaboratively with Ofcom, and others as appropriate on many of the items highlighted in Ofcom's work plan.

Enabling additional spectrum for mobile including 5G services

techUK welcomes Ofcom's desire to secure standards and improve quality, in particular enabling additional spectrum for mobile including 5G services and would be happy to collaborate with Ofcom on engaging with members to ensure spectrum technical conditions for the priority bands are appropriate for mobile, including 5G services.

700MHz spectrum clearance/Improving mobile coverage

techUK welcomes Ofcom's desire to secure standards and improve quality, in particular working to clear the 700MHz band in order to release the spectrum for mobile data and ensuring the goal that the band is available for mobile services by 2020. We also welcome and support improving mobile coverage in rural areas and the ongoing award of the 700MHz spectrum band.

techUK asks Ofcom to include 26 GHz authorisation in its annual plan

Whilst techUK agree of the long-term strategic goals of Ofcom to secure the widespread availability, affordability, affordability and accessibility of good quality communication services across the UK, we believe the authorisation plans for the 26GHz band for 5G use in the UK should also be included in the Ofcom 2019/20 workplan. The 26GHz band has been identified as a pioneering band for 5G in Europe and will allow sufficient bandwidths per mobile network operator to deliver the very high data rates and low latency promised by 5G. 26 GHz authorisation would allow Ofcom to preserve UK 5G leadership in Europe and globally.

Detailed work plan and consultation schedule

It is helpful to industry to have a clear forward plan of consultations so that we can plan resources to respond to Ofcom's proposals. It can be challenging to respond to several consultations in parallel where these require input from the same group of industry experts. Ofcom should schedule the work to avoid this where possible, and when setting deadlines for responses ensure sufficient time is allowed to enable industry to respond to the fullest extent possible.