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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Gita

Thank you for your letter and accompanying annex of 4 February 2021 to Melanie Dawes; Melanie has asked me to reply. You set out a range of issues about the substance and process of our Wholesale Fixed Telecoms market review (WFTMR).

As you know, our strategy is to provide support for investment and innovation in ultrafast broadband networks and we are encouraged by the investment that has been announced to date, including by your clients. We expect our forthcoming WFTMR statement to provide an appropriate regulatory framework for further investment across the sector.

On your substantive points, I understand that your clients or their representatives have responded to our various WFTMR consultations and that the team here have met with them on multiple occasions. While we will treat your letter as a further response, given this previous engagement, we do not consider that a further meeting on these is necessary at this point. As you will appreciate, it would not be appropriate for me to respond directly in advance of our WFTMR statement, which will set out our response to these arguments. I would be happy to meet with your clients after the publication of the statement, if they wish to do so.

You also raise concerns about the WFTMR process, including on the time allowed for responses, the presentation of issues, impact assessments and impartiality. We strongly disagree with the points you raise. We believe that our consultations and engagement have been fair and that you and your clients have been given an appropriate opportunity to participate.

Yours sincerely,



Lindsey Fussell

Group Director
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