

Hello,

I write to you on behalf of the Rural Services Network in regard to the following consultation:

[Consultation: Resilience guidance - Ofcom](#)

The Rural Services Network (RSN) represents over 500 organisations from across the public, private and third sectors.

We are the national champion for rural services and are a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association, we also provide the Secretariat to the Rural Services All Party Parliamentary Group.

We recognise that the questions posed by the consultation are technical in nature and aimed at Communications Providers, we feel compelled however, to comment from a rural perspective.

**Resilience in rural areas is low.**

There needs to be urgent investment in rural infrastructure to ensure rural areas are not left behind and can contribute to and benefit from the digital revolution.

This includes upgrading the capacity and resilience of the electricity grid and rolling out next generation digital networks.

Rural areas are often solely reliant on analogue telephone networks due to power outages caused by insufficient grid capacity, and frequent severe weather events.

The reliance on analogue networks is because of poor mobile phone coverage and lack of digital infrastructure.

Ofcom's recent 2023 Connected Nations – England report states some 56% of rural premises in England cannot access a gigabit capable connection and 59% cannot access full fibre.

Coupled with this your Connected Nations report states 50% of rural premises cannot get a 4G connection indoors on all four networks (BT-EE, Virgin Media/O2, Three and Vodaphone).

One hour battery back-up is woefully inadequate for rural areas.

We sincerely hope you take in to consideration the heightened need for battery back-up in rural areas where mobile and fibre are not in place and would welcome the opportunity to discuss further.

In the meantime, find out more about our work and campaigns at <https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/category/campaigns>