

Warwicknet response

Question 4.1: Do you agree with our proposals for a specific access obligation, which includes an obligation on BT to make adjustments to its physical infrastructure when its network is congested?

Warwicknet support the Ofcom position in relation to imposing a network access obligation on BT to provide access to its physical infrastructure. This imposition provides the possibility of economically viable competition and choice for consumers.

Question 4.2: Do you agree with our proposals on the scope of PIA: (1) To broaden usage through a mixed usage generic rule; (2) To modify the PIA condition to define geographic scope by reference to telecoms providers' local access networks.

We agree with Ofcom's position that there are significant benefits in encouraging other network providers in investment of their own networks rather than simply driving regulation of BT's own products and services. In conjunction with the point made under 4.1 above this allows speedy deployment of infrastructure and competition in areas of which otherwise economic and practical issues may preclude competition.

Question 5.1: Do you agree with our proposed imposition of a no undue discrimination SMP condition on BT?

Warwicknet agree that in the interests of competition and encouraging other network operators to invest in wide scale deployment, it is important to create a level playing field. Clearly through the history of telecommunications deployment in the UK BT has a significant advantage over other network operators which favours its own downstream companies and products. Unless a level playing field is established that allows fair competition economic viability would be questionable.

Question 6.1: Do you agree with our proposed approach to the processes and systems relating to planning and surveying?

Improvements to PIA process and systems. Warwicknet supports Ofcom's position. The original processes and systems established for this product were manual and un-scalable with too many touch points/interactions. Warwicknet are encouraged from the results of the "POC Trial "and subsequent adoption of its findings. This has significantly improved lead times for deploying network from the starting position. Warwicknet believe further automation in the ordering mechanism and reduction of manual tasks is still required to aid scalability, improve efficiency and should also reduce the cost of providing the product by BTOR. This will further improve the economic position for further deployment of fibre services within the UK and benefits to consumers.

Question 6.2: Do you agree with our proposed approach to the processes for build works and enabling works?

Warwicknet supports the comprehensive Ofcom approach that aims to drive improvement in the PIA product through process and systems improvement, supplemented by the regulatory access requirements and non-discriminatory treatment of other operators in the use of its network.

Question 6.3: Do you agree with our proposed approach to processes relating to the connecting the customer stage?

Question 7.1: Do you agree with our proposed form of price regulation for PIA rental and ancillary charges?

Warwicknet supports the Ofcom position and approach on rental and ancillary costs linked to regulation & fair competition. The BTOR significant market presence and extent of the BTOR network would otherwise stifle competition and investment from other network operators.

Question 7.2: Do you agree with our proposed approach to the recovery of network adjustment costs?

Warwicknet strongly supports the recommendation of 7.35 that requires BTOR to recover the costs of network investment across all of its products over a sensible period of time. Warwicknet accepts that the asset is BTOR's and recovering the full cost of any extension or supplementation of the network for capacity by the triggering operator is unfair and inappropriate. Charging full cost to a triggering operator would probably cause competitors to back off and therefore prevent competition. The charging of full costs to another operator would also provide a significant advantage to BTOR as it would then have access to a "free" asset across the range of its products. In summary Ofcom's approach to have BTOR accountable for sustaining and growing its asset, with a fair method of recovery of the cost of the asset through appropriate rental cost is the correct approach. This approach will be enabling, encouraging competition and extension of fibre services to consumers.

Question 7.3: Do you agree with our proposed approach to the recovery of productisation costs?