

Ofcom
Salisbury Trial Team
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RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON OPENREACH'S TRIAL IN SALISBURY

Overview

In Section 3, the consultation provides some basic details regarding the trial that will cover 20,000 homes and aims to reach 75% coverage by September 2019.

No information is provided on WHY Openreach has decided on Salisbury for the trial or the types of 'migration' issues that are likely to be identified.

To respond constructively to this consultation, more specific data about the overall infrastructure for the Salisbury city area are required. For example:-

What proportion of the 21,808 premises are classified as urban and rural?

Before the start of deploying full fibre, what proportion of the premises were being serviced from FTTC, and FTTP and only copper? Does FTTP by aerial cable on poles exist in Salisbury area?

Has any of the 'principle' operators (Sky, TalkTalk, Vodafone or Virgin Media) previously intimated to Ofcom a firm intention/plan to employ FTTP in Salisbury area?

Considering the 'principle' operators (Sky, TalkTalk and Vodafone), what proportion are their existing services on Openreach's infrastructure of FTTC, FTTP and copper only?

In Openreach's plans/schedule will they firstly provide FTTP to the premises that are presently connected by only copper? These being the group most likely to benefit from faster broadband and voice over IP services.

What percentage of copper lines are involved with alarm / care equipment services for the disabled, elderly, infirm people?

What is the timescale to complete the remaining 25% of premises to FTTP?

Salisbury seems to be a large area for a trial into "migration of customers to fibre services" when answers to likely problems are required NOW by other operators to enable their future plans and procedures to be implemented. Surely, smaller area trials would address their specific problems more rapidly. Why not provide trials specifically for a Sky provider area, a separate area for TalkTalk and another area trial for Vodafone. These smaller trials could be located in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and answer their specific geographical problems.

Salisbury exchange is enabled for '21 Century network'. What equipment enhancements and increased capacity will be required to interconnect to their area 'Fibre switch node' IP Network?

Will the 'Points of interconnection' (POI) for the four 'principle' providers (Sky, TalkTalk, Vodafone and Virgin Media) need to have the location changed or upgraded in capacity during this trial or other proposed trials?

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON OPENREACH'S TRAIL IN SALISBURY

How many mobile masts are within the Salisbury exchange area and the number of mobile operators operating from these masts?

Question 1.

Agree overall if this is the only trial in the UK on "migration of customer to fibre services".

Must only apply when the exchange area is fully connected with FTTP infrastructure.

However, retaining the copper in the area for two years after full FTTP is too long, possibly six months would be sufficient.

I would have expected Ofcom to agree with Openreach a detailed area by area programme of work and issued to various suppliers involved in this trial. The existing ongoing work to reach 75% coverage by September this year must have identified solutions for problems already encountered.

Has any improved installation procedures been advised to the All IP Working Groups?

Question 2.

The consultation items 3.22 to 3.27 highlight the more important issues. However, the details contained in my Overview (page 1) may well relate to other impact issues.

Through the All IP Working Groups, has Ofcom received any progress on 'stand – by power' for the Tele-Care equipment in homes?

Question 3

The consultation items 3.28 to 3.32 together with Annex 4 are very comprehensive.

A detailed area by area work programme would add to the communication between Openreach and other providers and consumers. Every effort must be made to keep to programme timescales.

Question 4.

Annex 7 covers adequately the needs for monitoring of the trial.

The installation of FTTP in shared ducts may cause disruption to other broadband providers or mobile operators. Perhaps a special category for this type of monitoring could be included.

Responses submitted by: [S&K].