

BEAMA CEDIG response to Ofcom proposed plan of work 2021/22

February 2021

BEAMA is the UK trade association for the electrotechnical industry. The following response is sent on behalf of BEAMA's Consumer Energy Data Industry Group (CEDIG).

We welcome the opportunity to comment on Ofcom's plan of work, but rather than comment on individual questions we will make the following general remarks.

The proposed plan of work for 2021/22 includes an ongoing task of considering 2G/3G switch off. The GB Smart Metering program is recognized as key to national infrastructure and uses the 2G/3G communications network for most of its wide area communication. The Smart Metering program will become a foundation for numerous smart services to help enable Britain's shift to carbon neutrality by 2050, so Government, Regulator and Industry plans should cohere in support of those efforts. The inclusion of the Smart Metering system in national infrastructure ensures it will have an operational lifetime longer than consumer products that use the same network, and thus it is essential that it remain operational. BEAMA's members are actively involved in numerous and diverse initiatives in this area and need confidence that the communication platforms their solutions will use will continue operating as intended.

It is therefore important that if a replacement for the 2G/3G network is required, it is in place, proven and fully operational with all installed smart meters before the 2G/3G system is switched off. BEAMA asks to be kept informed of activity in this area in order to keep its members fully aware of all plans that could have an effect on the Smart Metering infrastructure.