

## Your response

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Do you have any comments on our proposals?	Confidential? –N  See below

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Response:

### **Connectivity and spectrum**

As OFCOM recognizes, home connectivity to the internet has become more important than ever during periods of lockdown due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. However, we believe that this is not merely an exceptional situation due to the crisis but instead reflects an acceleration of an underlying trend. Working from home, remote learning, virtual medical appointments, online exercise classes, and accessing key public services online are just some of the digital services that we expect to keep growing even after coronavirus crisis.

Superfast broadband and full fiber home connectivity are the cornerstone of quality home connectivity in the UK, providing a high-speed point of access to the internet to each home. Wi-Fi plays a critical role for consumers to benefit from such high-speed connectivity. Opening the 5925-6425 MHz was a remarkable achievement by OFCOM in 2020. Going forward, OFCOM should build on this effort. Many countries around the world (e.g. USA, South Korea) allocated not just 500 MHz, but 1200 MHz of 6GHz spectrum to RLAN to ensure that their citizens would enjoy world class connectivity at home well into the future.

Therefore, Facebook encourages OFCOM to initiate an assessment of the opportunity to expand the 5925-6425 MHz RLAN band to the full 5925-7125 MHz band. This should take the form of an independent project but also inform the following existing projects:

- Engaging with industry on wireless and spectrum,
- Spectrum management strategy (including improved RLAN connectivity as a long-term spectrum goal),
- Spectrum roadmap (recognise the importance of home connectivity in the preparation of WRC23),
- Home broadband performance measurement (assess the impact of the RLAN connectivity on the broadband speed as experienced by users).