

## Your response

Question	Your response
<p data-bbox="188 360 738 456"><b>Question 1: Do you agree with our proposed approach to designating a Universal Service Provider?</b></p>	<p data-bbox="794 360 1348 600">Methera Global Communication Limited (“Methera”) agrees with Ofcom’s arguments for moving to designation of USPs rather than implementing an auction or procurement process, as this would be the most rapid and least complex method for implementation of the Broadband USO.</p> <p data-bbox="794 645 1362 779">To encourage market diversity, Methera would argue against the designation of a single USP for the whole country and encourage Ofcom to designate USPs on a regional basis.</p> <p data-bbox="794 824 1374 1458">Regarding the proposed size of the USP allocation areas, Methera considers that the Local Authority level is too small and risks failure to achieve sufficient economies of scale. Methera proposes that Ofcom should designate USPs covering larger regions. The devolved administrations have defined broadband deployment areas, such as the Scottish Government’s 3 regions for its R100 programme and the Welsh Government’s 3 regions for its Superfast Cymru 2 project. There would be synergies were Ofcom to align with these. Northern Ireland should be a single USP area. For England, Ofcom should designate USPs covering larger regions such as county council, unitary authority and metropolitan district areas, or regional TV broadcasting areas which would be of sufficient size.</p> <p data-bbox="794 1503 1347 1637">In all cases, provisions should be made for a USP to have open access to other operators’ existing infrastructure within their designated area.</p>